Quiz #1

February 7, 2014

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Revise the following wordy sentence by making cuts (not additions). Explain briefly why you cut out what you did. (2-3 sentences, 2 points possible)

In Martin Luther King’s text that he gave, he brings forth an extravagant amount of viewpoints that centered on the listeners and worked at their perspectives and propositions as to the problem of race issue.

1. What is the central conflict of Raymond Carver’s “Cathedral,” in your opinion? What is the climax of that conflict and how is it resolved? (1 paragraph, 3 points possible)
2. What does Donne’s “The Flea” say about seduction; in other words, what is poem’s theme about seduction? What formal elements in the poem (word choice, figurative language, sounds) support that conclusion? How does this compare to either Robin Thicke’s “Blurred Lines” or Enrique Iglesias’s “I’m a Freak”? (at least 1 paragraph, 5 points possible)

“The Flea” by John Donne

 Mark but this flea, and mark in this,

How little that which thou deniest me is;

It sucked me first, and now sucks thee,

And in this flea our two bloods mingled be;

Thou know’st that this cannot be said

A sin, nor shame, nor loss of maidenhead,

    Yet this enjoys before it woo,

    And pampered swells with one blood made of two,

    And this, alas, is more than we would do.

Oh stay, three lives in one flea spare,

Where we almost, nay more than married are.

This flea is you and I, and this

Our mariage bed, and marriage temple is;

Though parents grudge, and you, w'are met,

And cloistered in these living walls of jet.

    Though use make you apt to kill me,

    Let not to that, self-murder added be,

    And sacrilege, three sins in killing three.

Cruel and sudden, hast thou since

Purpled thy nail, in blood of innocence?

Wherein could this flea guilty be,

Except in that drop which it sucked from thee?

Yet thou triumph’st, and say'st that thou

Find’st not thy self, nor me the weaker now;

    ’Tis true; then learn how false, fears be:

    Just so much honor, when thou yield’st to me,

    Will waste, as this flea’s death took life from thee.

1. The following is a sonnet. Identify the traits of the sonnet that this poem embodies and explain how and why the poem deviates from these conventions. (at least 1 paragraph, 5 points possible)

“next to of course god america i” by ee cummings

next to of course god america i

love you land of the pilgrims' and so forth oh

say can you see by the dawn's early my

country 'tis of centuries come and go

and are no more what of it we should worry

in every language even deafanddumb

thy sons acclaim your glorious name by gorry

by jingo by gee by gosh by gum

why talk of beauty what could be more beaut-

iful than these heroic happy dead

who rushed like lions to the roaring slaughter

they did not stop to think they died instead

then shall the voice of liberty be mute?

He spoke. And drank rapidly a glass of water

1. Argue whether the relationship between the father and son in “My Papa’s Waltz” is affectionate or violent using your close reading skills. (at least 1 paragraph, 5 points possible)

“My Papa’s Waltz” by Theodore Roethke

The whiskey on your breath

Could make a small boy dizzy;

But I hung on like death:

Such waltzing was not easy.

We romped until the pans

Slid from the kitchen shelf;

My mother’s countenance

Could not unfrown itself.

The hand that held my wrist

Was battered on one knuckle;

At every step you missed

My right ear scraped a buckle.

You beat time on my head

With a palm caked hard by dirt,

Then waltzed me off to bed

Still clinging to your shirt.