

WRITING EXERCISE 4: "SONNET 19" CHARACTER, PLOT, AND THEME ANALYSIS

Directions: Analyze Shakespeare's poem "Sonnet 19" explaining how the plotting and characterization work to reveal the theme.

OUTLINE

I. Introduction

In "Sonnet 19," to preserve the beauty of a young man, the poem's speaker must somehow overcome the ravages of what? To increase the intensity of the conflict between the speaker and time, what does Shakespeare personify? Is this personified character likable?

II. Body paragraphs character analysis

Discuss the delineation of Time's brutal character by analyzing the victims that the narrator would allow Time to ravage. Use direct quotations from the text. Explain how each victim and each victim's demise reveal Time's formidability.

Symbols of power

The speaker tells Time to ravage two types of cat. What do they symbolize? What is the lion king of? What type of tiger is Time going to destroy? Why pull teeth and blunt paws?

Symbols of innocence

The speaker tells Time make the earth swallow her brood? What is a brood? How is a brood different than the symbols of animal power? What does it say about Time's character that it will kill a "sweet brood"?

Symbol of immortality

What is the Phoenix? Why say that Time can burn the Phoenix in its own blood? What does it say about Time's power? How is the Phoenix different than the other victims of Time's wrath?

III. Conclusion

Name the strategy the narrator uses to resolve the conflict.

What evidence is there that the poet is successful in defeating Time?

Explain what the speaker's solution reveals to the reader about the power of art? (This is a theme).