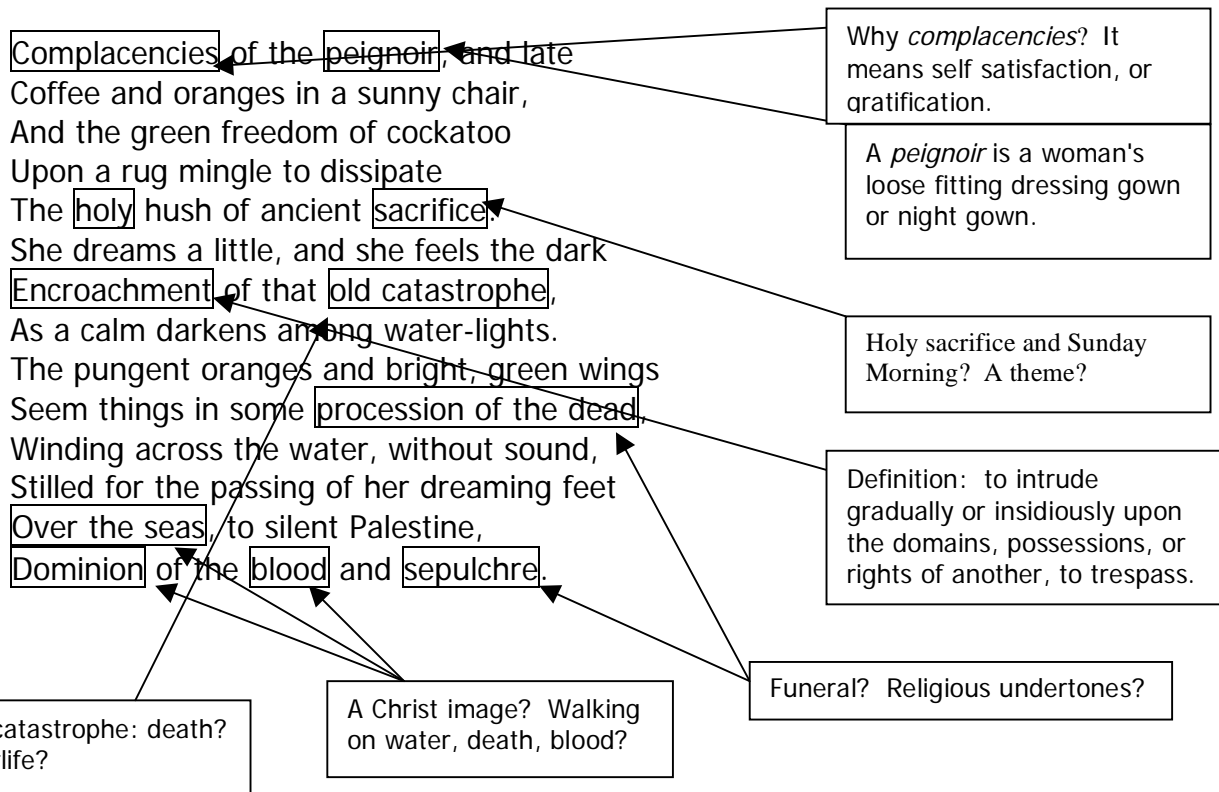


Analyzing Textual Passages

Part of our work in AP is to look very closely at the words, the essential building blocks of literature, writers choose to place in their texts. A close analysis of the words in individual passages, much like our look at the impact of literary techniques or elements on a work, can unlock the secrets of how a writer achieves a specific effect. For example, look at the first stanza of "Sunday Morning," a poem by Wallace Stevens:



Now, let's analyze the words we have looked at. Stevens uses words that carry heavy religious significance, leading us to believe that the narrator is making some form of statement regarding religion. These images contrast nicely with the secular images of the peignoir and a lazy Sunday morning in bed. The physical colors and smells, coffee, oranges, a bird's feathers, contrast with the abstract, colorless, soundless notions of death and after life. If we were to go on to analyze the entire poem, we might see the culmination of this dichotomy between secular and religious imagery, but in our sole stanza we must look at words and word patterns to discern ideas.

In your passage analysis, I am asking you to write 1-2 pages in your marble notebook that begin the analysis process. This will be your final draft. You will, in those 1-2 pages, develop a thesis and write a brief analytical essay response.

Point Breakdown:

35 points for the final paper.

Passage Analysis #1

Our first passage analysis delves into the world of Modernist prose. Read the first chapter of Virginia Woolf's To the Lighthouse and look at the prose. In your notebook (or on a separate sheet of paper or typed), comment on the passage highlighted on pages 10-11 of the text. Consider Woolf's word choice and the effect it has on the characterization of Mr. Ramsay. Then, do your full analysis of color imagery in the chapter. What does Woolf achieve with this vocabulary choice? The due dates are below:

Text to Analyze: Virginia Woolf, To the Lighthouse.

Handed Out: Monday, March 3, 2008

Notebook Work (15 points): Tuesday, March 4, 2008
Neatly handwritten or typed, please.

Final, typed paper (35 points): Monday, March 10, 2008
1-2 pages, typed, double spaced, etc. Follow the style sheet.

NOTE: You are not looking to come to any deep understanding of the work as a whole, only the passage for analysis.