

Name: _____

Directions: For each of the poems you will need to complete the items listed below. You can complete this on a separate sheet of paper or on the printed poems themselves.

- Every poem carries a sense of irony within it. Write a statement that represents the irony within the piece and mark up the text for evidence that supports your statement
- Color mark the text for words that represent the tone of the piece identifying whether they create a positive or negative tone
- Paraphrase each **SENTENCE**, not line, of the poems
- Color mark the poem for any literary devices that you notice such as metaphor, simile, imagery, etc.
- Write a statement that represents what you believe is the meaning of the poem as a whole.

List of Poems

1. My Papa's Waltz by Theodore Roethke
2. Ozymandias by Percy Bysshe Shelley
3. Icarus by Andrew Field
4. To his Coy Mistress by Andrew Marvell
5. Out, Out – by Robert Frost
6. The history Teacher by Billy Collins
7. The Black Walnut Tree by Mary Oliver
8. To Paint a Water Lily by Ted Hughes

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.

Ozymandias

By [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#)

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is [Ozymandias](#), King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."

"Icarus"

by Edward Field

Only the feathers floating around the hat
Showed that anything more spectacular had occurred
Than the usual drowning. The police preferred to ignore
The confusing aspects of the case,
And the witnesses ran off to a gang war.
So the report filed and forgotten in the archives read simply
"Drowned," but it was wrong: Icarus
Had swum away, coming at last to the city
Where he rented a house and tended the garden.

"That nice Mr. Hicks" the neighbors called,
Never dreaming that the gray, respectable suit
Concealed arms that had controlled huge wings
Nor that those sad, defeated eyes had once
Compelled the sun. And had he told them
They would have answered with a shocked,
uncomprehending stare.
No, he could not disturb their neat front yards;
Yet all his books insisted that this was a horrible mistake:
What was he doing aging in a suburb?
Can the genius of the hero fall
To the middling stature of the merely talented?

And nightly Icarus probes his wound
And daily in his workshop, curtains carefully drawn,
Constructs small wings and tries to fly
To the lighting fixture on the ceiling:
Fails every time and hates himself for trying.
He had thought himself a hero, had acted heroically,
And dreamt of his fall, the tragic fall of the hero;
But now rides commuter trains,

Serves on various committees,
And wishes he had drowned.

To His Coy Mistress

By [Andrew Marvell](#)

Had we but world enough and time,
This coyness, lady, were no crime.
We would sit down, and think which way
To walk, and pass our long love's day.
Thou by the Indian Ganges' side
Shouldst rubies find; I by the tide
Of Humber would complain. I would
Love you ten years before the flood,
And you should, if you please, refuse
Till the conversion of the Jews.
My vegetable love should grow
Vaster than empires and more slow;
An hundred years should go to praise
Thine eyes, and on thy forehead gaze;
Two hundred to adore each breast,
But thirty thousand to the rest;
An age at least to every part,
And the last age should show your heart.
For, lady, you deserve this state,
Nor would I love at lower rate.

But at my back I always hear
Time's wingèd chariot hurrying near;
And yonder all before us lie
Deserts of vast eternity.
Thy beauty shall no more be found;
Nor, in thy marble vault, shall sound
My echoing song; then worms shall try
That long-preserved virginity,
And your quaint honour turn to dust,
And into ashes all my lust;
The grave's a fine and private place,
But none, I think, do there embrace.

Now therefore, while the youthful hue
Sits on thy skin like morning dew,
And while thy willing soul transpires
At every pore with instant fires,
Now let us sport us while we may,
And now, like amorous birds of prey,
Rather at once our time devour
Than languish in his slow-chapped power.
Let us roll all our strength and all
Our sweetness up into one ball,
And tear our pleasures with rough strife
Through the iron gates of life:
Thus, though we cannot make our sun
Stand still, yet we will make him run.

'Out, Out—'

By [Robert Frost](#)

The buzz saw snarled and rattled in the yard
And made dust and dropped stove-length sticks of wood,
Sweet-scented stuff when the breeze drew across it.
And from there those that lifted eyes could count
Five mountain ranges one behind the other
Under the sunset far into Vermont.
And the saw snarled and rattled, snarled and rattled,
As it ran light, or had to bear a load.
And nothing happened: day was all but done.
Call it a day, I wish they might have said
To please the boy by giving him the half hour
That a boy counts so much when saved from work.
His sister stood beside him in her apron
To tell them 'Supper.' At the word, the saw,
As if to prove saws knew what supper meant,
Leaped out at the boy's hand, or seemed to leap—
He must have given the hand. However it was,
Neither refused the meeting. But the hand!
The boy's first outcry was a rueful laugh,
As he swung toward them holding up the hand
Half in appeal, but half as if to keep
The life from spilling. Then the boy saw all—
Since he was old enough to know, big boy
Doing a man's work, though a child at heart—
He saw all spoiled. 'Don't let him cut my hand off—
The doctor, when he comes. Don't let him, sister!'
So. But the hand was gone already.
The doctor put him in the dark of ether.
He lay and puffed his lips out with his breath.
And then—the watcher at his pulse took fright.
No one believed. They listened at his heart.
Little—less—nothing!—and that ended it.
No more to build on there. And they, since they
Were not the one dead, turned to their affairs.

The History Teacher

Trying to protect his students' innocence
he told them the Ice Age was really just
the Chilly Age, a period of a million years
when everyone had to wear sweaters.

And the Stone Age became the Gravel Age,
named after the long driveways of the time.

The Spanish Inquisition was nothing more
than an outbreak of questions such as
"How far is it from here to Madrid?"
"What do you call the matador's hat?"

The War of the Roses took place in a garden,
and the Enola Gay dropped one tiny atom
on Japan.

The children would leave his classroom
for the playground to torment the weak
and the smart,
mussing up their hair and breaking their glasses,

while he gathered up his notes and walked home
past flower beds and white picket fences,
wondering if they would believe that soldiers
in the Boer War told long, rambling stories
designed to make the enemy nod off.

The Black Walnut Tree

My mother and I debate:
we could sell
the black walnut tree
to the lumberman,
and pay off the mortgage.
Likely some storm anyway
will churn down its dark boughs,
smashing the house. We talk
slowly, two women trying
in a difficult time to be wise.
Roots in the cellar drains,
I say, and she replies
that the leaves are getting heavier
every year, and the fruit
harder to gather away.
But something brighter than money
moves in our blood—an edge
sharp and quick as a trowel
that wants us to dig and sow.
So we talk, but we don't do
anything. That night I dream
of my fathers out of Bohemia
filling the blue fields
of fresh and generous Ohio
with leaves and vines and orchards.
What my mother and I both know
is that we'd crawl with shame
in the emptiness we'd made
in our own and our fathers' backyard.
So the black walnut tree
swings through another year
of sun and leaping winds,
of leaves and bounding fruit,
and, month after month, the whip-
crack of the mortgage.

To Paint a Water Lily

A green level of lily leaves
Roofs the pond's chamber and paves

The flies' furious arena: study
These, the two minds of this lady.

First observe the air's dragonfly
That eats meat, that bullets by

Or stands in space to take aim;
Others as dangerous comb the hum

Under the trees. There are battle-shouts
And death-cries everywhere hereabouts

But inaudible, so the eyes praise
To see the colours of these flies

Rainbow their arcs, spark, or settle
Cooling like beads of molten metal

Through the spectrum. Think what worse
Is the pond-bed's matter of course;

Prehistoric bedragoned times
Crawl that darkness with Latin names,

Have evolved no improvements there,
Jaws for heads, the set stare,

Ignorant of age as of hour-
Now paint the long-necked lily-flower

Which, deep in both worlds, can be still
As a painting, trembling hardly at all

Though the dragonfly alight,
Whatever horror nudge her root.

List 1: Sentence Pattern: complex sentence

1. Brazen
2. Compunction
3. Din
4. Edict
5. Indiscretion
6. Perquisites
7. Sepulcher
8. Suppliant
9. Tumult
10. Marauding

List 2: Sentence Pattern: compound sentence

11. Admonish
12. Akimbo
13. Lassitude
14. Licentious
15. Muse (noun and verb)
16. Pecuniary
17. Plight
18. Presumptuous
19. Subversive
20. Vacuous

List 3: Sentence Pattern: compound-complex sentence

21. Avocation
22. Callous
23. Capricious
24. Disparity
25. Efficacy
26. Epistle
27. Hospice
28. Impetus
29. Moribund
30. Vacillate

List 4: Sentence Pattern: loose sentence

31. Akin
32. Corroborate
33. Inexorable
34. Insipid
35. Nefarious

36. Physiognomy
37. Retinue
38. Suppliant
39. Tedium
40. Torrid

List 5: Sentence Pattern: periodic sentence

41. Affront
42. Blasé
43. Cajole
44. Choleric
45. Encumber
46. Feckless
47. Impasse
48. Indolent
49. Lugubrious
50. Ribald

List 6: Sentence Pattern: balanced sentence

51. Adulation
52. Censure
53. Dissemble
54. Dissimulation
55. Droll
56. Expectorate
57. Palpate
58. Peremptory
59. Pusillanimous
60. Surfeit

List 7: Sentence Pattern: chiasmus

61. Allay
62. Capacious
63. Didactic
64. Diurnal
65. Ignominious
66. Mitigate
67. Palpitate
68. Phlegmatic
69. Propitious
70. Prostrate

List 8: Sentence Pattern: asyndeton

71. Acquiesce
72. Amity
73. Arduous
74. Gestalt
75. Inundate
76. Perjury
77. Perspicuity
78. Preposterous
79. Trepidation
80. Voluble

List 9: Sentence Pattern: polysyndeton

81. Alacrity
82. Aplomb
83. Barrage
84. Cognizant
85. Collusion
86. Deleterious
87. Hegemony
88. Paradigm
89. Unctuous
90. Urbane

List 10: Sentence Pattern: anaphora

91. Ambulatory
92. Brazen
93. Churlish
94. Diffident
95. Ennui
96. Inscrutable
97. Prognosticate
98. Schism
99. Sedition
100. Wizen(ed)

List 11: Sentence Pattern: epistrophe

101. Austere
102. Corpulent
103. Derisive
104. Effeminate
105. Jocund

106. Manifest
107. Ostentatious
108. Sanguine
109. Strident
110. Vehement

List 12: Sentence Pattern: parallel structure

111. Elegiac
112. Fecund
113. Infirmary
114. Malady
115. Nuance
116. Profligate
117. Remonstrance
118. Scintillate
119. Terse
120. Vitiate

List 13: Sentence Pattern: complex sentence

121. Ambivalent
122. Analogous
123. Emissary
124. Felicity
125. Incendiary
126. Magnanimous
127. Morose
128. Repartee
129. Ubiquitous
130. Venerable

List 14: Sentence Pattern: compound sentence

131. Countenance
132. Deposition
133. Discursive
134. Epigram
135. Feign
136. Interpolate
137. Laconic
138. Mien
139. Veracity
140. Wry

List 15: Sentence Pattern: compound-complex sentence

141. Confound
142. Curate (noun and verb)
143. Ethereal
144. Gambol
145. Mutability
146. Nascent
147. Nonplused
148. Pedantic
149. Quail (verb)
150. Rhetorical

List 16: Sentence Pattern: loose sentence

151. Effusive
152. Fatuous
153. Febrile
154. Incredulous
155. Interminable
156. Obliquely
157. Pernicious
158. Sardonic
159. Ultimatum
160. Writhe

List 17: Sentence Pattern: periodic sentence

161. Astute
162. Beseech
163. Capitulate
164. Deprecating
165. Glean
166. Obfuscate
167. Pathos
168. Primeval
169. Salubrious
170. Solicitous

List 18: Sentence Pattern: balanced sentence

171. Albeit
172. Bereft
173. Gratis
174. Intercession
175. Lineaments

176. Presage
177. Prodigal
178. Prolixity
179. Sinecure
180. Visage

List 19: Sentence Pattern: chiasmus

181. Accordant
182. Accouterments
183. Deportment
184. Exposition
185. Impugn
186. Impute
187. Parapet
188. Pertinacity
189. Temperance
190. Viands

List 20: Sentence Pattern: asyndeton

191. Brevity
192. Copious
193. Gout
194. Habiliments
195. Irksome
196. Ponderous
197. Scrupulous
198. Sundry
199. Timorous
200. Transcendent

List 21: Sentence Pattern: polysyndeton

201. Caustic
202. Dissolute
203. Ebullient
204. Entourage
205. Extol
206. Meet (not in the rendezvous sense)
207. Poignant
208. Resolute
209. Turgid
210. Xenophobic

List 22: Sentence Pattern: anaphora

- 211. Chastening
- 212. Corporeal
- 213. Derive
- 214. Dubious
- 215. Ethos
- 216. Equivocal
- 217. Errant
- 218. Goad
- 219. Resplendent
- 220. Ruminant

List 23: Sentence Pattern: epistrophe

- 221. Aphorism
- 222. Assail
- 223. Beget
- 224. Bellicose
- 225. Discourse
- 226. Garrison
- 227. Inculcate
- 228. Recourse
- 229. Usurp
- 230. Vexation

List 24: Sentence Pattern: parallel structure

- 231. Adroit (ly)
- 232. Allocation
- 233. Ascetic
- 234. Beguile
- 235. Enjoin
- 236. Envoy
- 237. Ideology
- 238. Interloper
- 239. Kowtow
- 240. Vicarious