

- rhyme scheme: ababbcbcdedea (a variation/combination of Spenserian: ababbcbccdcdee and Shakespearean: abab cdcd efef gg)
- subject matter
 - love
 - emotion
- wit display

Ballad

- repetition; refrain
 - narrative; story
 - direct speech
 - folk diction; simple rather than sophisticated vocabulary
 - tallness (l. 2)
 - heart-cup (l. 4)
 - (of a sort) (l. 11)
 - subject matter
 - love
 - death; killing
 - historical event
 - dramatic action
3. (3 points) The speaker's description of her lover in the first section contrasts with that in the second. What is ironic about this portrayal turn? Refer to specific words and lines in the poem to illustrate your points.

[Some possibilities of points made include:]

- The lover being "untrue" is not the usual (balladic) adultery
 - It is ironic that the lover, portrayed positively ("tallness" l.2, "grandly" l. 7, "sweet" l. 8), after the volta is described with negative words ("untrue" l. 8, "hesitate" l. 12, "change," "stammer" l. 13) even though he still faithfully loves the speaker; that he does not return because of another is because that other is death
 - The lover is not being unfaithful with another woman
 - The lover "courts" death in war, not a literal woman in lust
 - The lover "hesitate[s]" or wavers from the speaker because of a battle situation, perhaps pain or life-threatening injury, not because of pleasure

- The lover's "change" from his promise to "be coming back" is not a change of heart but will be a change from life to death
- The lover saying "Yes" to death is a leaving of the speaker, but not because of sexual promiscuity
- Death, not another man or woman, is the speaker's competition for the lover, personified as a coquettish beauty
- The negative words "untrue," "hesitate," "change" and "stammer," contrasting the earlier positive words "tallness," "grandly" and "sweet" do not reflect badly on the lover because they refer to his succumbing to death rather than to a literal woman
- Not only are the roles switched—implied female speaker praising a male lover rather than the more common male speaker praising a female lover—but also the tense is warped. The future simple tense "He will be the one" is used as if the fact is completed. Similarly, "Some day the war will end" brings no hope or relief because that end does not necessitate the lover's return.

Part II: Poems (15 points; 55 minutes)

Choose **two** quotes from **one** of the three sets of quotes below and discuss simple words for complex meanings in the quoted works. What word in each of the poems looks easy, plain or straightforward but is used to convey deep, complicated or controversial ideas? It can be the same word or two different words. Examine the complexities of the word's senses and ideas.

Set 1

- a. What is violet? clouds are violet
In the summer twilight.
- b. 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.
- c. "Hope" is the thing with feathers –
That perches in the soul –
- d. And when I came home from my Labour at night
To my Wife and Children, in whom I delight,
To hear the come round me with tattling noise
Now these are the Riches that poor Men enjoy.

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Set 2

- a. How still, how happy! These are words
That once would scarce agree together;
- b. Let me not to the marriage of true minds
Admit impediments.
- c. Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
- d. “For I have slaine the bravest sir knight
That ever rode on steed;
So have I done the fairest lady
That ever did woman’s deed.

Set 3

- a. But I said, “I’ve a pretty rose tree,”
And I passed the sweet flower o’er.
- b. My love is like a red red rose
That’s newly sprung in June:
- c. Lay your sleeping head, my love,
Human on my faithless arm;

[Some possibilities of choices and points made include:]

Simple words

- hope
- thing
- what
- pretty
- rose
- sweet
- love
- still
- happy
- let
- only
- slain
- rich
- poor
- hero
- human

Complex ideas

- Multiple meanings/layers and levels of meaning
- Multidimensional ideas
- Redefined/changed meanings
- Destabilized idea(s); questioned/challenged meanings
- Unfixed/shifting/dynamic ideas
- Relative/subjective ideas
- Problematic/paradoxical/ambiguous ideas
- Affects the senses of other parts of the text
- Examples
 - The simple word *rich* is used to refer to complex ideas about wealth in the ballad “The Nobleman’s Generous Kindness”: rich that means having a lot of money, rich that means having a lot of love, rich that means having a fulfilling life, rich that means coming home after a hard days work to be surrounded by a loving family, rich that means having a good wife and children, rich that means having a warm home to come back to at night, rich that means ability to buy anything and everything one wants with money, rich that means being generous, rich that means acquiring friends
 - The simple word *hero* is used to convey complex ideas about human desire and status in Field’s “Icarus”: definitions of epic heroism, modern heroism, genius, ambition, Mr. Hicks’s preference for epic failure “drowned” rather than mundane success “Serves on various committees”, the value of living vs. existing, of surviving vs. thriving