

Literature analysis essay



1. Read Eavan Boland's "Anorexic" and describe the poem's form or structure. Consider stanzas, line length, rhyme, and meter. Eavan Boland's "Anorexic" is written in free verse, which is defined as a poetry form composed of lines with rhyme or without, and are arranged in no specific metrical pattern. Made of 15 stanzas, "Anorexic" is completed in short, succinct lines, of 9-syllable maximum. Rhyme is virtually nonexistent, except for the repetition of words in the beginning of some lines, such as "I", "once", "only", "and", "a", and "into".

2. Describe the relationship between 'she' and 'I' in "Anorexic". Hint, don't identify, either one as the poet. "I" in the poem is the persona who is suffering from anorexia, and "she" refers to the physical body that the persona owns. The "I" only acknowledges being part of "she" in the first stanza ("My body is a witch")—from that point on, the body becomes an evil being that appears to overwhelm the persona. In the sixth stanza, the "I" is shown to be successful in eliminating the "she" ("She has learned her lesson"), and is not mentioned any longer in the rest of the poem.

3. Read William Blake's "The Tyger" and describe the poem's form or structure.

William Blake's famous lyrical poem "The Tyger" is written in traditional form and meter, reminiscent of children's poems. It is composed of six quatrains, AABB rhyming lines of four to a stanza, forming two rhyming couplets. Many of them are in trochaic tetrameter, which refers to four trochees, a metrical foot that is made of an unstressed syllable following a stressed one.

4. In “ Death Be Not Proud”, explain the idea Donne conveys with the line “ From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be”. John Donne expresses his faith and spirit in this poem about Death, whom he dissuades from the concept of being all-powerful. “ Rest and sleep” are Death’s “ pictures”, which in this context means that Death can claim the poet easily, in his sleeping state. But Donne admonishes Death, by saying that it will take more from Death to overpower him; and when it happens, eternal life follows, which will signal Death’s own death.