

Poems



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

03 September 2007 Poems Sonnet 73 In this sonnet written by William Shakespeare, the speaker makes use of intensive metaphor to talk about his old age. It should be noted that old age has been compared to autumn where the “leaves are yellow, or none, or few do hand,” to the end of the day when “sweet birds sang,” and “after sunset fadeth in the west,” and to the remnants of the fire which is slowly “consum’d with that which it was nourished by.” In the last two lines of the sonnet, the speaker tells his lover that he/she must perceive this old age and that he/she must love him/her more with the knowledge that the speaker will soon be forever gone.

To Autumn

John Keat’s poem entitled To Autumn illustrates this season with three different descriptions. The first stanza describes autumn with specific, concrete, and vivid images of what happens during autumn. Keats describes autumn as a season of activity when, with the sun’s help, it bend apple trees with the abundance of their fruits, “fill all fruit with ripeness to the core,” “swell the gourd,” and “plump the hazel shells.” The second stanza depicts a different picture of autumn as a reaper or harvester who accomplished some of his activity but now stands still. In contrast to the active autumn described in the first stanza, the second denotes inactivity and near completion. The third stanza contrasts summer which is known as the season of rebirth to autumn which is the season of death. Here, the death of autumn is illustrated as a “soft-dying day” which is depicted favorably as this death also creates beauty.

By Emily Dickinson

This poem by Emily Dickinson talks about the death of a man in “the opposite house.” This documents the chronology after the death and the

different reactions of individuals in the country town where it happens. The third line states the commotion in the house as neighbors rustle in and out perhaps doing what they think will help. The fourth line signifies hopelessness as the doctor drives away. The dead must have been sick for a long time as the window which has been closed is now abruptly opened. A mattress is flung raising the curiosity of the children who “wonder if It’d died on that.” The writer adds that she used to feel the same way when she was a child implying that it is a natural human reaction. The minister then comes in order to bless the dead and “goes stiffly in as if the house were his.” Dickinson then states that the minister “owned all the mourners now, and the little boys beside, and then the milliner and the man of the appalling trade” which can signify the demand placed by the ministers which are completed straight away by all those who are in the house. The “dark parade” in the poem signifies the burial which will be attended by “tassels and coaches” thereby making all the town know of the death which occurred.