

Possible topics for Exercise # 1

Due Friday, 12:00 pm., under my office door
NO LATE EX. WILL BE ACCEPTED!

1. Why do you think M. uses the sonnet format, usually associated with courtly love poetry, to write about personal + political topics?
 2. Is "Methought I Saw" a love sonnet? How? How is it different from traditional love sonnets in subject + tone? What do you make of the last line?
 3. Compare "How soon Hath Time" with "When I consider". How are they alike in their sentiment? Do they both represent the same religious beliefs?
 4. In what specific ways does M. praise Cromwell in "To the Lord General"? What was the political + religious climate at the time of its composition (1652)? Could you read this poem as a way for Milton to praise himself? How?
 5. Why do you think that the pastoral elegy is a popular form for expressing mourning? What, specifically, does M. achieve by using it in Lycidas?
 6. Examine lines 103-131 in Lycidas. What religious sentiment is being offered? What place does it have in this elegy?
 7. Compare opening + closing of Lycidas. What has occurred in between which allows the poem to begin with despair + end with hope? Can you compare this structure with any of the sonnets?
- Feel free to answer only one sub-question in each of questions or to let the questions lead you in other directions. These are only suggestions.