

Principles of Literary Study

andrewgoldstone.com/pls26

Professor Andrew Goldstone (andrew.goldstone@rutgers.edu)
Office hours: Thursdays 11:45–12:45 in MU 040A or by appt.

February 23, 2026. Speakers and addressees.
Blizzard class conducted by Zoom; these slides give a skeletal outline.

review: stanzas

- ▶ a stanza is a group of lines
 - ▶ may have meter, rhyme, syllable-count, or word-repetition patterns
 - ▶ may repeat or not
- ▶ some stanza patterns are conventionalized; we've seen:
 - ▶ heroic couplet ("City Shower")
 - ▶ alternating quatrain ("A Valediction: forbidding Mourning")
 - ▶ ballad stanza = hymn ("Sir Patrick Spens," "Amazing Grace")
 - ▶ sestina ("Sestina")
 - ▶ ghazal ("Tonight")
- ▶ poets can also make up their own stanza shapes
 - ▶ patterns for language...
 - ▶ which might be patterns for thought

back to Keats's "Urn"

1. apostrophe; rhetorical? questions; heterogeneous scene
2. unheard melodies; address to the Bold Lover
3. happy, happy, happy: boughs, melodist, superior love
4. questions again: the sacrifice and empty town: desolation: is the "tale" expressed at all?
5. sees the urn as urn again (marble men, silent form); thou shalt remain

motto

Beauty is Truth, Truth Beauty.—That is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know. (49–50)

Annals of the Fine Arts 4, no. 15 (December 1819): 639.

“Beauty is truth, truth beauty,”—that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know. (49–50)

Lamia, Isabella, The Eve of St. Agnes, and Other Poems (London: Taylor and Hessey, 1820),
116.

“Beauty is truth, truth beauty,—that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.” (49–50)

[Representative Poetry Online](#), n.d.; “our text follows the example of the Riverside edition (Douglas Bush, ed.).” Also what you get if you just take the first google hit and land on the [Poetry Foundation](#).

tropes of address

When old age shall this generation waste,
Thou shalt remain, in midst of other woe
Than ours, a friend to man, to whom thou say'st,
“Beauty is truth, truth beauty,”—that is all
Ye know on earth, and all ye need to know.

apostrophe (“turning away”) figure of exclamatory address

prosopopoeia (“making a face”) representing something that isn't a person as a person

ekphrasis (“description”) description of a visual artwork

thinking about address

- ▶ who speaks?
 - ▶ better: how does the poem construct a speaker?
- ▶ to whom is the poem addressed?
 - ▶ better: what kind of addressee is implied by the poem?
- ▶ who wrote?
 - ▶ better: what relation does the poem imply between author and speaker?
- ▶ who hears or reads?
 - ▶ better: what relation does the poem imply between reader and addressee?

Donne: two ways or one?

▶ “The Flea”

- ▶ direct address from a lover to a beloved
- ▶ seductive argument (“Me it suck’d first, and now sucks thee”)
- ▶ implied response: squish (“Cruel and sudden”)
- ▶ implied counter: “when thou yield’st to me”

▶ “The Sun”

- ▶ apostrophe (“Busy old fool, unruly Sun”)
- ▶ seductive argument (“the world’s contracted thus”)
- ▶ implied response: gotta go
- ▶ implied counter: “these walls, thy sphere”

Wheatley's double discourse

On Being Brought from Africa to America (1773)

'Twas mercy brought me from my *Pagan* land,
Taught my benighted soul to understand
That there's a God, that there's a *Saviour* too:
Once I redemption neither sought nor knew.
Some view our sable race with scornful eye,
"Their colour is a diabolic die."
Remember, *Christians*, *Negros*, black as *Cain*,
May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train.

dramatic monologue

- ▶ Browning's "My Last Duchess": let's pretend
 - ▶ a poem about pretense, lies, deception
- ▶ Eliot's "Prufrock": is this like Browning, or not?

Melville, “Shiloh”

The gruesome carnage was unprecedented: Of nearly 110,000 soldiers engaged from both sides 23,800 became casualties, 3,500 were killed outright. The human devastation was the greatest known on the American continent up to that date; more casualties than the Revolution, War of 1812 and Mexican War combined.

“The Battle of Shiloh,” American Battlefield Trust. As for “greatest known on the American continent up to that date,” consider whether Native deaths from disease, war, and displacement were “known.”

Melville, “Shiloh”

The gruesome carnage was unprecedented: Of nearly 110,000 soldiers engaged from both sides 23,800 became casualties, 3,500 were killed outright. The human devastation was the greatest known on the American continent up to that date; more casualties than the Revolution, War of 1812 and Mexican War combined.

“The Battle of Shiloh,” American Battlefield Trust. As for “greatest known on the American continent up to that date,” consider whether Native deaths from disease, war, and displacement were “known.”

- ▶ What responses does the speaker consider to the battle in his “Requiem”?

Foemen at morn, but friends at eve—
Fame or country least their care:
(What like a bullet can undeceive!)
But now thy lie low,
While over them the swallows skim,
And all is hushed at Shiloh.

- ▶ As a speech act, how does the parenthesis compare to what surrounds it?

next: four hard long poems in open form

- ▶ bring Melville and Warner back
- ▶ print out and re-read Ramanujan