

Test Review

**The Passionate Shepherd to His Love
by Christopher Marlowe 1599**

Come live with me and be my love,
And we will all the pleasures prove
That valleys, groves, hills, and fields
Woods or steepy mountain yields

And we will sit upon the rocks,
Seeing the shepherds feed their flocks
By shallow rivers to whose falls
Melodious birds sing madrigals.

And I will make thee beds of roses
And a thousand fragrant posies,
A cap of flower, and a kirtle
Embroidered all with leaves of myrtle;

A gown made of the finest wool
Which from our pretty lambs we pull;
Fair lined slippers for the cold
With buckles of the purest gold;

A belt of straw and ivy buds,
With coral clasps and amber studs;
And if these pleasures may thee move,
Come live with me and be my love.

The shepherds' swains shall dance and sing
For thy delight each May morning:
If these delights thy mind may move,
Then live with me and be my love.

**The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd
by Sir Walter Raleigh 1600**

If all the world and love were young,
And truth in every shepherd's tongue,
These pretty pleasures might me move
To live with thee and be thy love.

Time drives the flocks from field to fold,
When rivers rage and rocks grow cold;
And Philomel becometh dumb;
The rest complain of cares to come.

The flowers do fade, and wanton fields
To wayward winter reckoning yields;
A honey tongue, a heart of gall,
Is fancy's spring, but sorrow's fall.

Thy gowns, thy shoes, thy bed of roses,
Thy cap, thy kirtle, and thy posies,
Soon break, soon wither, soon forgotten,
In folly ripe, in reason rotten.

Thy belt of straw and ivy buds,
Thy coral clasps and amber studs,
All these in me no means can move
To come to thee and be thy love.

But could youth last and love still breed,
Had joys no date nor age no need,
Then these delights my mind might move
To live with thee and be thy love.

Notes for "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love."

- **Pastoral lyric:** Poetry that expresses emotions in an idyllic setting.
- It is related to the term "pasture," and is associated with shepherds writing music to their flocks.
- The tradition goes back to David in the Bible and Hesiod the Greek poet.
- The themes of the poem - *carpe diem* and the immediate gratification of their sexual passions.
- Love in the May countryside will be like a return to the Garden of Eden.

Notes for "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love."

- The shepherd offers his love many rustic (simple, natural) pleasures in an effort to convince her to be his love
- If the nymph would go a-maying with the shepherd, they would have a perfect life.
- In quatrains (4 line stanzas) of iambic tetrameter (8 syllables per line, 4 measures per line with 2 syllables in each measure), the shepherd invites his beloved to experience the joys of nature.
- He hopes to return with the nymph to an Edenic life of free love in nature.

Notes for "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love."

- "Carpe diem" – seize the day – life is short; make the most of each moment
- Carpe diem poem – used as an appeal to a young woman to yield to love while she still has her youth and beauty

Notes for "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd."

- We are already tainted before we enter society. Raleigh combines *carpe diem* with *tempus fugit* in an unusual way.
- Normally one should seize the day because time flies. Raleigh argues that because time flies, we should NOT seize the day.
- There will be consequences to their roll in the grass. Time does not stand still; winter inevitably follows the spring; therefore, we cannot act on impulses until we have examined the consequences.
- The world is NOT young--we are not in Eden, but in this old fallen world - a world in which shepherds have actually been known to lie to their nymphs.

Notes for "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd."

- This poem by Raleigh uses the same form, length, meter and references to present "mirror images" of Marlowe's poem.
- The nymph of the poem sets up a hypothetical set of images which undermine the intelligence of the man's offer because all that he offers is transitory (temporary).
- She reverses his images into negative ones:
 - rocks grow cold
 - fields yield to the harvest

Notes for "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd."

- the flocks are driven to fold in winter
- rivers rage
- birds complain of winter (a reference to the story of Philomela who was raped and turned into a nightingale).
- We live in a fallen world. Free love in the grass is impossible now because the world is not in some eternal spring.
- If it were, the nymph might go to him.
- The seasons pass, as does time. Nymphs grow old, and shepherds grow cold.

Notes for "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd."

- Folly = foolishness
- Reason = intelligence / good sense