

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Mark the octet and sestet on the sonnet.

Mark the rhyme scheme of the poem on the right side of the line.

Put an \* next to the volta.

Write a paraphrase of the sonnet.

Death Be Not Proud - John Donne	The Sonnet Paraphrase
<p>Death, be not proud, though some have called thee            Mighty and dreadful, for thou are not so;            For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow            Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.            From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,            Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,            And soonest our best men with thee do go,            Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.            Thou'art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,            And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell,            And poppy'or charms can make us sleep as well            And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?                One short sleep past, we wake eternally,                And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

**Poppy:** A flower associated with sleep, death, and the resurrection. Also associated with the death of soldiers.

**1 Corinthians 15: 54-57** “So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, ‘Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?’ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

What is the narrator of the poem cautioning Death against?

Why does the narrator say that Death should not be proud?

**The tone of the poem shifts when the rhyme scheme changes.**

What line does the poem change its rhyme scheme?

How would you classify the tone before the change? Why do you say this is the tone?

How would you classify the tone after the change? Why do you say this is the tone?

How does the tonal shift add to our understanding of the poem's theme?

According to the poem, how is Death defeated?

What is the effect of addressing this poem to something that cannot talk back?

Do you believe that this poem makes sense outside of its theological context? As in, does the theme hold true even for people who do not believe in Christianity the way that John Donne believed?