

Philip Sidney

Certain Sonnets

Read the poem below. Discuss it in an essay of about 300-400 words, integrating your short answers to the following questions and referring to the text of the poem.

1. Contextualize the poem in its historical, socio-political and cultural environment
2. Discuss the poem in terms of its affiliations to generic and other literary conventions.
3. Discuss the poem in terms of themes and ideas
4. Discuss the poem in terms of style and structure (identify stylistic devices, formal patterns and interpret their meaning and/or poetic effect)
5. Compare the poem to other relevant poems contemporary or not.

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| 1. Leave, me, O loue which reachest but to dust, | leave; love |
| 2. And thou, my mind, aspire to higher things. | you |
| 3. Grow rich in that which neuer taketh rust; | never takes |
| 4. Whateuer fades, but fading pleasure brings. | |
| 5. Draw in thy beames, and humble all thy might | your |
| 6. To that sweet yoke where lasting freedomes be; | |
| 7. Which breakes the cloudes, and opens forth the light, | |
| 8. That doth both shine and giue us sight to see. | does |
| 9. O take fast hold; let that light be thy guide | your |
| 10. In this small course which birth drawes out to death, | draws |
| 11. And thinke how euill becommeth him to slide, | evil becomes |
| 12. Who seeketh heau'n, and comes of heau'nly breath. | seeks heaven; heavenly |
| 13. Then farewell world; thy vttermost I see: | uttermost |
| 14. Eternall Loue, maintaine thy life in me. | |