

SELECTION ONE—SNAPSHOT OF A SOCIETY

The Pillow Book by Sei Shonagon—965-1013 AD—pages 498-505—short stories and observations of life in Empress Sadako's court (Heian Period)

Not her real name—Sei is her family name, Shonagon was her title at court
Female—from a wealthy family who is a minor counselor in the Empress' court. She wrote humorous stories about her observations. She had a sharp wit and often conversed with men as an equal. She was a contemporary of Lady Murasaki, but completely different. Her work can be compared to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* because both provide a "snapshot" of life during that time.

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

Prologue to *Canterbury Tales*

Prologue—Frame story, Describes the pilgrims, the contest

Stereotypes, sarcasm, irony

*****People are not what they appear to be, are not what they should be*****

Knight-distinguished, chivalry, gentleman—Murderer

Squire-young soldier—A Player

Yeoman—a woodsman, archer, *sniper*--not sure about him

Nun(Prioress)-French, nasal, dainty—appearances, animals, stout

Nun & 3 priests

Monk-Hunter, manly-man—ignores the rules, does what he wants

Friar-confessions, taverns, richness—selling pardons, commerce, charisma

Merchant-fast talker—hiding the fact he is in debt

Cleric/Student-poor, rejected for post in church—perpetual student, dreamer-

MORAL

Sergeant-wise, photographic memory—honest, busybody

Franklin-jolly guy, rich landowner—harsh to his servants, Eating/Drinking

The Guilds-at the top of their game—can't rise up the social ladder-think well of themselves

Cook-great cook—oozing body sore

Skipper-tanned, wise—a Pirate!

Doctor-an astronomer, a quack—greedy

Wife of Bath-cloth maker, haughty, religious, married 5 times, "other company," loves finery—chatty and friendly, appearances

Parson-poor priest-fair-An honest man, good example

Plowman-his brother-another honest man

Reeve-old man, skinny, manager-shrewd, has made honest money

Miller-big guy, red hair/face-steals from people, coarse, beer stories

Manciple-wise with money, manager-another good man

Pardoner-pale hair and face, bulging eyes, very covetous-worst one on the trip-
FAKE RELICS, sells forgiveness, loud

Summoner-lecherous, scary looking-stinky breath, drunk stupid, black mails people

Chaucer's Canterbury Tales

The Pardoner's Tale

Pardoner's Prologue—He explains how he cheats people out of their money selling fake relics and pardons. He admits that he is completely vile and corrupt. He always preaches against GREED, which is his biggest sin.

The Tale—

3 drunks decide to kill DEATH because DEATH is killing so many young people from the plague. They vow to find him and kill him.

They meet an old man and are very rude to him, tell him he should die already, and accuse him of being DEATH's spy.

The old man tells them that DEATH is on the hill under a tree.

The drunks go there and find buried treasure—8 buckets worth. They immediately start plotting against each other. GREED

The two stab one in the back, but he had poisoned the wine so when the two drink, they all end up dead under the tree. SO THEY DID FIND DEATH UNDER THE TREE.

Moral of the story—GREED leads to DEATH.

After the story he tells the pilgrims how lucky they are to have him with them.

Now they can be safe because they can buy their pardons from him. He warns them that they could die at any second, so they should buy a pardon now.

This story's has been made into movies and other programs. People will do things for money. The more money, the more outrageous they get. People turn on each other, 'back stab' each other, and commit crimes—for money.

The Wife of Bath's Tale

Starts by saying the church has destroyed all the magic of the world. Now all the evil of the world is committed by human beings, not magical creatures.

She tells a story set 300 years ago in the time of King Arthur. A knight rapes a young girl and faces the death penalty. King Arthur gives the knight's case to Queen Gwenivere to decide. She tells the knight he must answer the following question or be put to death:

What do women want?

This is an age-old question that men have been trying to figure out since time began. The knight has a year and a day (just like Sir Gawain, when he faced the

Green Knight) to find an answer. He searches but can't find any two people who will agree.

On the last day he meets an OLD woman and she promises she can save him, but he must promise to do one thing she asks. He vows on his honor to do it.

They return to court and he gives the answer the OLD woman gave him—Women want to rule men.—Everyone in court agrees and the knight's life is spared. Then the OLD woman tells the knight what she wants—to marry him. He is devastated, but by his honor, he must marry her.

On their wedding night he is very upset and she asks him why—since she saved his life and has never done anything wrong to him.

He accuses her of being: of low birth, poor, and old/ugly. She rebukes him and explains what true gentility is, what character is, and reminds him that manners require us to respect the old.

She ends the argument by offering him a choice. Which would he rather have: An OLD, UGLY, and FAITHFUL wife—who will never betray him

Or

A YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL wife that his friends will be trying to get with and who will cheat on him every chance she gets

The knight can not decide. Men want both, they don't want to have to choose between the two. He gives the decision to her. Let's her take charge. "Whatever you say, dear"

As his reward for allowing her to RULE him, she transforms into a young, beautiful woman and vows to be faithful to him.

The Wife of Bath ends her tale by stating that God should give women husbands who will be ruled by their wives. And curses any man who won't allow his wife to rule him.

**on a side note: niggard is defined as a stingy person—it has NOTHING to do with any particular race.

SELECTION TWO—SONNETS

Sonnet 3-Petrarch

How craven so to strike me stricken so, Yet from you fully armed conceal his bow!
First day he sees her (love at first sight). He is captured by her love. He is hit by Cupid's arrow, but she is not (unaware of his love).

Sonnet 169-Petrarch

I have so much to say I dare not start

Hundreds of sonnets written to a secret crush. She makes his soul take flight. He is afraid to tell her how he feels. She leaves him hopeful but with confused emotions.

Sonnet 292-Petrarch

The vein of my accustomed art is dry

After her death, he is in mourning. His love for her is the only thing that mattered in his life. His inspiration is gone and he is lost without her.

Sonnet 18-Shakespeare

But thy eternal summer shall not fade

One of Shakespeare's most famous sonnets—often quoted

Describes the beauty of a woman he loves and how it is superior to the beauty found in nature during the summer. Death will never shadow her in his eyes

Sonnet 29-Shakespeare

Haply I think on thee, and ... then I scorn to change my state with kings.

When I am dissatisfied with my life, all I have to do is think of you and I consider myself better off than any king.

Sonnet 30-Shakespeare

While I think on thee, dear friend, all losses are restored, and sorrows end.

When I sit and think of all the things that have gone wrong in my life I get so depressed, but then I think of you and my sorrow ends.

Sonnet 64-Shakespeare

That Time will come and take my love away

Time destroys everything through decay or destruction. Even the people you love will someday die and there is nothing you can do to stop it.

Sonnet 116-Shakespeare

Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks

Love is eternal, unchanging, steadfast, our shelter, our strength, it guides us.

Sonnet 130-Shakespeare

And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare

A Parody of all love sonnets that compare ladies to goddesses, the sun, angels, etc.

He describes his love as plain, ugly even. And yet he loves her truly, without having to flatter her with false comparisons.

SELECTION THREE—CARPE DIEM

A) Carpe Diem

Passionate Shepherd-Marlowe

Come live with me and be my love

Makes promises to her-jewelry, shoes, clothes, bed of roses-to come and be with him

Uses idealized images to tempt her

Nymph's Reply-Raleigh

But could youth last and love still breed

Rejects his promises-all lying tongues, all the gifts he offers wither/die—not permanent

Only hope is if they could be forever young and in love.

To the Virgins-Herrick

And this same flower that smiles today/Tomorrow will be dying

Rosebuds, sun imagery—youth and beauty linked, don't wait too long or you'll never have fun

To His Coy Mistress-Marvell

Had we but world enough and time, this coyness, lady, were no crime

If they were immortal he would spend 100 years to stare in her eyes, 200 for each breast, 30,000 for the rest of her body, but since they aren't immortal they don't have time to waste. The grave is dry, gray, dusty and only the worms will enjoy your virginity. More graphic to play on the fears of girls in their late teens to convince them to have sex before they die.

Female Orations-Cavendish

1-women treated as beasts, men free & cruel; 2-there is no way out for women; 3-praises men, Nature made us weak; 4-imitate men to learn our strengths; 5-unnatural to imitate men—accept our lot in life to please men and God; 6-become more masculine-to become more perfect; 7-We should be happy as we are because men are slaves to our wiles.

Eve's Apology-Lanier

Not Eve, whose fault was only too much love

Adam was lord, master, smarter, stronger, knew God's law-he should have refused-he wasn't tricked-he made a bad choice, Eve's mistake was wanting more knowledge and she was TRICKED by the devil, She offered it to him out of love-wanting to share with him. He boasts of knowledge gained from Eve's hand.

SECTION FOUR-OTHER POETS

Sappho

Sappho—500 BC—Greatest female poet of the ancient world—possible religious cult leader worshipping Aphrodite. Lived on Lesbos— island where women enjoyed more rights and freedoms than other parts of Greece.

To an Army Wife, in Sardis (page 228)

He is More Than a Hero (page 229)

To Aphrodite of the Flowers, at Knossos (page 230)

Horace

Horace—50 BC—fought in the battle of Philippi—(Julius Caesar/Brutus/Marc Anthony, Octavian) Became friends with Virgil and was supported as a poet.

Seize the Day (page 394)

Better to live, Licinius... (pages 395-396)

Li Po & Li Ching-Chao

Li Po—701-762 AD—pages 452-458—Famous poet—NON CONFORMIST and ROMANTIC

Didn't get a "normal job" and instead remained a wandering poet—suffered during the political uprising of his time.

Tu Fu and Li Po were most famous poets of the Tang dynasty (empress Wu made poetry part of the government test to become a government worker) While Tu Fu wrote poetry that was regimented and followed strict rules, Li Po wrote free verse and flowing poetry about friendship, drinking, nature, solitude, love, and yearnings.

"The River-Merchant's Wife: A Letter"—page 454—Li Po took a traditional story (woman left behind by a lover) and changed it. Instead of being told by the man, it is told from the woman's perspective and reveals her love for her missing husband.

"Still Night Thoughts"—page 456—Li Po's most famous work—uses the symbolism of the Moon.

"Gazing at the Lu Mountain Waterfall"—page 457—reflects Taoist beliefs about living in harmony with nature. Emphasis on the beauty, wonder and grandeur of the natural world.

Li Ch'ing Chao—1084-1151 AD—pages 472-474—Famous Female poet—born to educated and wealthy parents who were able to indulge her education and writing. Her husband, also educated and wealthy, continued to support her writing. The invading Jin dynasty (Mongols) destroyed their home and she was forced to flee for most of the remainder of her life. She is famous for LYRICAL poetry—personal feelings, impressions, thoughts.

"Two Springs"—page 473—Nature reflects the love and joy of people

"On Plum Blossoms"—page 474—beautiful images contrast with the painful feelings and circumstances of people.

**deep symbolism of the plum blossoms—strength and perseverance, hope and courage

Tanka Poetry

Tanka Poetry—700-1500 AD—means "short songs" and are depictions of a single thought or a brief story. Often depicted in just 31 syllables divided among 4-5

lines—these rules don't apply to English versions. First poetry to be written in JAPANESE not CHINESE—Japanese didn't develop their own "alphabet" until 700 AD. Thrived in the Heian period. Eventually Haiku were created in similar format (17 syllables in 3 lines).

Love, Beauty, Nature, Passage of time, IMAGERY is very important, Implied not directly stated.

Ona Komachi—800 AD—one of the best female poets in Japan

Lady Ise—875-939 AD—Lady in waiting at Heian court for Emperors Uda and Daigo.

Ki Tsurayuki—868-946 AD—poetry and art linked together for the Emperor's court—not as emotional or personal

Saigyō—1118-1190 AD—best beloved poet in Japan—abandoned military career to be a Buddhist monk. Wrote meditative poetry about nature and the impermanence of life.

Rumi

Rumi—a Sufi—1207-1273 AD—pages 600-604—poet and mystic—created the worshipping in dance movement (whirling dervishes).

"Birdsong from Inside the Egg"

"The Grasses"

SELECTION FIVE—Stories from Realism through Responses to War

A Piece of String Story Notes

Description of the farmers. Not pretty, but accurate. Both their physical appearance and their clothing. The farmers' wives are also described very realistically.

Animals and people all milling about on Market Day. The main character—on his way to market, picks up a piece of string and rolls it up. His enemy sees him picking up the string. Gets ashamed and hides it in his pocket.

Distrustful of each other—worried about being cheated by others. Selling animals and goods. Noisy and busy day.

Noon—going to eat in the main lodge. Good food and smells in the tavern. Again a very realistically described scene. Town Crier tells that a wallet was lost on the road to the market. People sitting around talking about it. Main character is eating when he is called to the Mayor's office to answer the charge of stealing a man's wallet.

In the Mayor's office, the main character is accused of stealing the wallet. His enemy claims to have seen it happen. The main character is terrified and professes his innocence. He becomes angry and shows the Mayor the string he picked up. The

Mayor believes the enemy's story over the main character's story. He is indignant and fearful but no one believes him. His enemy and he yell at each other for an hour. He even offers to be searched and no wallet is found. People ask him the story, but no one believes him. He tries to prove his innocence. That night he goes home and is still upset about it. The next day, someone turns in the wallet with all the money still in it. He is excited that he is proven innocent. He is most upset by the lies his enemy told (that everyone believed). He is kind of obsessed about it. He gets the sense that people still believe he was involved in some way. So no matter what he does, he will never be clear of the accusation. It made him sick. The injustice makes it worse. Builds it up in his head. Ends up killing him.

A Problem Story Notes

Rich Russian Family has to deal with the boy (Sasha). The servants are all sent away. Women are hanging out in the Kitchen. The Uncles are discussing the problem. Ivan is on Sasha's side—is sympathetic towards him. The problem is a forged check. The two other uncles are more critical toward Sasha. The Col. is upset with Sasha's actions that affect the family's HONOR. He is also worried that his behavior will get WORSE if he doesn't learn now that his actions are wrong. The Colonel wants to let Sasha go to jail because he has no sense of honor. He thinks that Sasha will develop character in jail. The other Uncle (political)—don't let family name get dragged through the media. So Ivan wants to forgive him—everyone makes mistakes, The Colonel wants him to go to jail to learn character, and the politician just wants everything to stay quiet. The Colonel also says it is their CIVIC duty to punish a criminal.

Ivan—Sasha—dropped out of school, his parents died when he was a kid, and he is unlucky. Ivan says Sasha not taught how to be—get him a job and help him settle down. Let's not punish him, but teach him. Let's not drag the family name through the mud over such a small sum. Sasha isn't a "criminal"—didn't actually hurt anyone. Ivan assumes that Sasha must feel bad about what he had done.

Sasha did not feel bad at all. He doesn't regret it. He is completely emotionally cut off and doesn't care about anything. Sasha doesn't want to be called a "criminal" because he doesn't think that he is THAT bad. Debt is not a crime! Everyone else does it, so it can't be that bad. It's not my fault. I didn't MEAN to hurt anyone. Colonel doesn't want to just keep throwing money after Sasha. Has no faith that he will change his ways. Ivan brings Sasha into the room to speak. Sasha doesn't want to talk to them. The Colonel scolds him. Sasha leaves the room and is filled with rage at the Colonel. The Colonel's wife asks him to listen and beg forgiveness. Sasha doesn't understand why everyone is so upset.

The Colonel decides to let it go to trial. But they remember Sasha's mother and for her sake they reverse their decision and decide to pay Sasha's debt—provided he promise to go to work with Ivan. Sasha ignores the conditions and demands money from Ivan. Even says he will write another bad check if Ivan doesn't give him the money. In the end he realizes that he really is a criminal—but it doesn't bother him. Ivan is devastated.

War by Pirandello

Pirandello's own life was marked by tragedy when his wife was diagnosed with a mental illness. This affected his writing and he became more concerned with the inner workings of the mind and internal conflict. This story is set in Italy during WWI, during which 600,000 men died. It focuses on the conversation between parents sharing their fears about losing their sons to war. The conflict is between knowing all the right things to say, and coping with the emotions.

DETAILED NOTES

It is dawn and a man and woman board a train heading home after dropping off their only son at "boot camp." The other people on the train (5 of them) also have sons that are in the war and they start to talk about their experiences.

One says to be thankful that their son is only now going to war; his son has been in the war since day one and has been injured twice. Another says that he has 2 sons are in the war. The man says that his wife is so upset because it is her ONLY son. The man replies that his suffering isn't half for each, but is DOUBLED for his two sons.

The man tries to say that if you have two and lose one, you still have one to love; but the other man gets angry and says that if you lose your only child at least you can die too and end your suffering.

Another passenger interrupts and scolds them both. He describes that parents do not own their children. Parents belong to their children, not the other way around. He describes that children are exactly like their parents were when they were younger. He also says that parents would gladly trade places with their children in the war. This love of country also exists in 20-year-old boys. It is NATURAL for young men to want to go to war and defend their country. They want to be heroes. They aren't afraid of dying for their country—they consider it an honor. They are spared the ravages of life—disease, dishonor, old age. He is happy that his son sent him a letter right before he died in which his son said he was glad to die for his country. The man says he is proud of his son's sacrifice.

The woman who has just dropped off her son is stunned by the man's words. She can't even begin to feel pride in sending her son to war. She realizes that this man

is an inspiration to her, to rise above her sorrow. She listens to his story of his son's brave death for King and Country and she is amazed. She asks the man, "Is your son really dead?"

Her question breaks through the man's defenses and he can no longer maintain the "politically correct" façade. He breaks down, crying uncontrollably for the loss of his son.

Kawabata—Japanese author—The Jay

Kawabata had personal family tragedies—all his family die during his childhood—this colors many of his stories.

On one level the story is about a lost bird, on another it is about the loss of family relationships due to divorce, and on the last layer, it is about the audience's perspectives on the story (who do you relate to? The mother bird, the baby bird, the girl, the boy, the grandmother). The story is set in Post WWII Japan

The mother bird is searching for its baby. The brother is upset and wants to shoo it away. The Grandmother knows that the bird is looking for her lost chick. Yoshiko describes her grandmother's condition and how she gazes out into the garden even though she can't see well.

Yoshiko watches the gentle rain falling and listening to the Jay calling for its chick. Yoshiko worries about the chick, but has to get ready for her meeting with her fiancé. She looks at her fingernails and shows a balance between old-world knowledge and new-world knowledge. Her father divorced their mother for being a "loose woman"—probably cheated on him. Her father remarried when she was a teenager.

The brother doesn't like the stepmother and has met their "real" mother and thinks she is beautiful. Yoshiko feels badly for her stepmother and Yoshiko is upset with her brother for behaving so rudely. The brother is an angry and bitter guy. Now the brother is not allowed to live in the dorms anymore; and the father and stepmother live in another house. The father has arranged a marriage for her. Yoshiko is happy that her fiancé has agreed to move in with her in order for her to keep taking care of her grandmother and brother.

Yoshiko goes into the garden to wait for the meeting. She looks for the baby chick, and she finally finds it. Yoshiko picks up the baby and gives it some water. It calls out to its mother and the mother bird calls out to it too. Yoshiko puts the baby bird on the ground. The mother bird leads the baby bird home.

Yoshiko wants to share this experience in her own family. A hopeful outcome that she wants to duplicate within her own family.

Isabel Allende—And of Clay are We Created & from Paula—1942-present
LIFE—born in Peru, raised in Chile with her Maternal Grandparents. Became a journalist at 17, but her creative and imaginative mind made it difficult for her to be objective. Her uncle was elected president in 1970, but was assassinated three years later in a governmental coup and Allende's family had to flee to America. While in exile she wrote her first novel *The House of Spirits*, based on letters she wrote to her Grandfather (who had remained in Chile).
SOCIETY—Chile, during Allende's lifetime, has seen some political upheaval. Allende has used her writing as a way to expose what is happening in her country.

THE BOOK—Paula—is part autobiography and part biography—a blend of her life and her daughter's life. Her daughter died after being in a coma for a year. Allende began the story for her daughter, but she never got to read it. The incident—related in another book, *Of Love and Shadows*, describes a period after her uncle is assassinated, and the military regime is performing a "cleansing" killing anyone who had supported President Allende.

And of Clay... is an HISTORICAL FICTION—a true story that has been fictionalized to dramatize certain elements of the story. The disaster is real, the girl is real, her tragic death is real. The girl was trapped by the body of her aunt, not brothers and sisters. The character of Rolf is based on a rescue worker. This part of the story is elaborated to allow the audience to have a more emotional response to the story.

Nevado Del Ruiz erupted in November 1985 and buried the village of Armero, Columbia. The story is of a girl, Azucena (Omaira Sanchez), one of the survivors of the eruption and it chronicles her final hours.

Azucena's face was plastered everywhere; the televisions wanted her suffering to be the example for all the suffering of the village. The villagers had ignored the warnings that the volcano was about to erupt. In the middle of the night it did and sent ice, water, mud, rocks and clay sweeping down the mountain—burying the village completely and killing over 20,000 people instantly.

Rolf is a reporter who is called in to cover the story. When the station calls, Rolf's wife/girlfriend wakes up and makes coffee. She has no idea that he will be gone for days and that the tragedy would so touch his heart.

Rolf is one of the first on the scene of the disaster and his image is televised around the world as he reports on the devastation. He had the reputation of always being calm and confident, even in the most difficult situations/stories. People imagine that he is fearless, but the narrator knows that Rolf has used the distance created by the camera to keep himself separate from the terrible stories he covers.

Rolf is there when they find Azucena and is the first to try to reach her. He has his cameraman focus on the little girl as he tries to get to her. He ties a rope around her and tries to pull her out (thinking that rescuing her will be very easy). When they pull she screams and is still stuck. She says her legs are trapped by the bodies of her brothers and sisters.

This is the first time Rolf shows emotion as his voice cracks when he tells her it's going to be alright. The narrator loves him even more for his show of compassion. He tries for hours to try to get her out of the mud/clay. He even gets some soldiers to help for a little while, but they leave because there are so many other people to help. Azucena is not acting desperate or afraid, it is as if she has accepted her fate. Rolf refuses to give up and puts a tire around her like a life-buoy and he stays by her, even diving into the mud to try to free her. He determines that he needs a PUMP TO DRAIN THE WATER and free her. He radios for one and is told it will be sent the next day. He is angry that they have to wait so long. A doctor arrives and examines her and says that her heart is functioning well and if she doesn't get too cold she should survive the night. Rolf tries to console her and she begs him not to leave her alone. Rolf promises to stay with her.

After drinking a little coffee, Azucena tells Rolf about her simple life in her village, her family, her school. Rolf is optimistic that everything will be ok in the morning and he imagines visiting her in the hospital and buying her a gift. He tells her about his life too, his travels, and he even makes up stories to keep her entertained and to hold back fear. It was a long night.

Back home, his wife/girlfriend goes to the news station to feel closer to him. She calls everyone she can think of, trying to get a pump, but only gets "vague promises". She also watches Rolf and Azucena on the screen, she feels his frustration, and she feels Azucena's pain. She tries to mentally send him encouragement and feels emotionally connected to him and the little girl. She watches the news coverage of the devastation, people screaming for help, soldiers

and rescue workers digging people out, doctors amputating limbs without anesthesia to try to save people. She listened as the doctors begged for help, but the bureaucracy made it impossible for help to get there. As time passed, the mud itself became deadly with the decomposing bodies and disease that threaten the survivors.

The next day, other reporters come to talk to her too. They are making her the face of the tragedy. They want to ask Azucena the same questions over and over again, but she doesn't answer anymore.

Rolf looks exhausted and the narrator notices that he is SEEING Azucena, not through the lens of the camera but in real life, he has made an emotional connection. Rolf tries to feed Azucena but she is unable to keep it down. The doctor says she has a fever, but he can't do anything because the limited medicine he did have was reserved for other patients. A priest blesses her. That night it begins to drizzle. Azucena says that the sky is weeping and begins to cry. Rolf tries to comfort her.

The television crews bring high tech equipment in to capture the images of the disaster. The whole time, Rolf is asking everyone for a PUMP to free her. The narrator is able to see and hear them. She hears Azucena teach Rolf how to pray and she hears Rolf tell Azucena the stories she herself told to Rolf (allusion to 1001 Nights).

On the second night, Rolf tries to sing Austrian songs to Azucena to help her sleep, but she can't so they spend the night talking. In this night Rolf finally confronts his past. The images of World War II that had haunted him (burying bodies from Hitler's holocaust, his mother's humiliation at the hands of the Nazis), his abusive father (whipping him, locking him in the closet) and his sister that he left behind and who was dead. All of these memories come back to him as he sits there next to Azucena in her mud pit. He realizes that everything he had done as an adult was to try to block out those terrible fears. He realizes that he is Azucena, trapped in his own mud pit. Azucena tells him not to cry, she doesn't hurt anymore. Rolf tells her he is crying for his own pains.

The third day, the President of Columbia comes to the valley to see the devastation himself. He is very well dressed and using this disaster as an opportunity to be on camera. He assures everyone that he is doing everything he

can to help the survivors. He stops by Azucena's mud pit and tells her how brave she is. Rolf interrupts and demands a PUMP. The President promises to personally take care of it.

The narrator notices a difference in Rolf, he is no longer reserved and calm, his emotions have finally broken through. Azucena has helped him get in touch with his past and his emotions. She sees the exact moment when Rolf gives up and understands that he is going to watch her die. Azucena tells Rolf that she is sad to have never been in love, and Rolf tells her that he loves her more than any other person he has ever loved. The narrator wishes she could trade places with Azucena so that the girl could live her life. She watches as Rolf kisses Azucena on the forehead. She imagines that in that moment both Rolf and Azucena are finally free, rising above their suffering, and able to accept death. Rolf quietly prays for Azucena's suffering to end.

The narrator had found a pump and had a general who was going to send it to them. But on the third night, Azucena gave up and Rolf let her go. She slowly sank below the surface of the mud.

The last paragraph is addressed to Rolf and the narrator is describing how the tragedy has changed him. He is contemplating many things and she is waiting for him to complete his self-exploration and emotionally/mentally come back to her. She knows that one day he will be healed and their lives will continue.

SELECTION SIX—CONTEMPORARY POETS

I am Not One of Those Who Left the Land by Akhmatova

Akhmatova stayed in Russia during the Russian Revolution—risking her life to remain. The censorship imposed by the government caused many artists to flee. Later, when Stalin began to consolidate his power, killing 20 million Russians along the way, she continued to remain in Russia. She speaks with contempt toward those who fled to keep themselves safe. She believes that those who stayed behind are braver and stronger than the cowards who left.

DETAILED NOTES

I didn't leave my homeland, and those that did—I despise their flattery and their praise—I do not write for them.

Those that left are exiles, like convicts sneaking about, let worms infect your lives in foreign countries—like a guilty conscience.

But those of us who stayed, who stand amid the flames and smoke, who have no friends left to be with, we are not afraid of anything, anymore.

There will come a time when those who left will have to answer for their actions—after the war, after everything passes—they will have to answer to those who had the courage to stay (who don't have to cry, who are proud of themselves for having the courage to stay). Those that left will have to accept that they are cowards.

The Diameter of the Bomb by Amichai

A poem exploring the ever widening influence that war/conflict/terrorism has on the world. Eventually, we are all impacted by it. We are all a part of the circle. This is the explanation for why we study such somber topics—to keep us connected to the rest of the world.

DETAILED NOTES

The poem opens with a factual account of a bombing and the people it affected—this spreads to all the people the victims knew. As the destruction spreads the focus turns to God, how can these things happen. In the end it feels as though there will never be an end to the destruction, hatred and war.

When in Early Summer by Sachs

A poem based on a drawing done by a girl who died in the concentration camps. In the poem, the world is criticized for not paying attention while peoples' lives were destroyed in the holocaust.

DETAILED NOTES

Poem opens with joyful images of nature and imagination. Life is happy and playful. However, the mood changes when a VOICE speaks. Asks the world a question—how did you miss the horrors that were happening? Then the mood shifts to anger and resentment because the world did nothing while lives were destroyed and peoples' whole worlds were thrown away. The sun and moon represent all the people of the world who were "cross-eyed" and didn't see anything.

The Prison Cell by Darwish

The prisoner remains free because his mind is free—he can rise above his captivity. The guard is imprisoned because his mind cannot imagine a free world. In the end, the guard begs the prisoner to teach him how to be truly free.

DETAILED NOTES

Poem opens with a trance-like repetition to open the imagination. The prisoner uses his mind/imagination to escape the four walls of his cell. The guard—used to being the one in power—is confounded by the prisoner's ability to "escape" the reality of

their existence. The guard is at first angry with the prisoner and hides it behind criticism, but in the end, the guard has to ask the prisoner how to live such a life that is free and full of potential.

After the Deluge by Soyinka

Wealth, Power and Corruption cannot last—A Revolution strips the rich man of everything he had

DETAILED NOTES

A Corrupt official, who has a very rich-extravagant lifestyle. Opening imagery of his swimming pool that he filled with money. Describes how he spends frivolously (caviar for the dog, new rugs flown in.)

He controls Money, so much so that he affects governments in other countries. They all do his bidding.

He lives in a fortress, guarded from the people of his country. He has no connection to them—just takes their money. Only living things are his dogs.

He gives to charity (a widow's mite) and then publicizes it so he can look good.

He survives the lynch days and escapes his country. The author imagines him having to wait in line for food and water just like ordinary people. He can remember his glory days, but the world has forgotten him.

They let him live so that he can suffer. Closing imagery goes back to the swimming pool. Now empty and dry—home to lizards and snakes.

The End and The Beginning by Szymborska

The various responses that people have to war—only newsworthy for a moment—then it is forgotten and the world moves on to something else—victims, media, those in power, people no longer care—'tidy up'

DETAILED NOTES

After every war someone has to clean up—collect the dead and clean up the rubble. Someone has to collect the reusable things. Rebuild and restore life. The Media leaves after just a few days and it takes years to rebuild, so no one cares about it anymore. People work themselves to death to fix things without any glory in it. People have lost interest in it (not news worthy).

The survivors try to tell their stories—to those who were not affected (un-shattered) by it. And others don't even care about it anymore. It is boring because it happened "so long ago" and they are too busy with their lives. Occasionally someone finds something that was important, but it just gets thrown away by the new generation who doesn't care anymore.

As time passes, fewer and fewer survivors remain so less people remember what really happened and what it all meant. Soon, no one remembers any first-hand stories and it becomes something you just learn about in a book.

Till it is just something students learn in a textbook (causes and effects)—while they would rather be outside daydreaming.

Jimenez—I am not I

We each have two selves—the public self and the private self—he believes it is the private self that is the REAL self.

Poetry Rhythm

Sound Devices-create mood, musical sounds, emphasize words

Assonance-repetition of vowel sounds within words-NO RHYME

Alliteration-repetition of consonant sounds at the start of words

Consonance-repetition of consonant sounds within/at end of words

Repetition-repeating word/phrase to create mood/tone

Diction-author's words based on audience-informal, formal, literal, figurative

Symbols-something stands for something else

Denotation-dictionary/literal meaning of word

Connotation-feelings/images attached to words

Paraphrasing-rewrite in your own words

Rilke-Panther—The difference between EXISTING and LIVING

Large powerful animal in a cage-

Can't see anything else-beyond is nothing

paralyzed, despair, will

The ritual of life—merely existing

Open your eyes—Potential for Action

Lorca-Guitar—Music is the language of Emotion/Experience

Cries that cannot be stopped—

Wanting-yearning/longing/desire

Direction-order/plan/purpose

An end-at some point to be done/completion/closure

Counting in Sevens by Judith Wright

7-what did I receive? Too young to remember

14-found my mind

21-independent, first love, had sex

28-three false relationships, finds true love, gets married

35-daughter sleeping in crib

42-daughter going to school, love, time

49-everything is going good-fruitful life

56-husband dies-in mourning-last kiss

63-70—who will I be then? I can't tell yet

But I will remember all the gifts I have received at every stage of my life.

Half a Day by Mahfouz

The narrator remembers his whole life as the events of half a day—we look back at our experiences and see the highs and lows—but much is lost to time

DETAILED NOTES

A young boy is walking to school with his father beside him. The new clothes makes him happy, but heading to school makes him very nervous. He watches the scenery on the way to school. Fields and orchards line the road. His mother watches from home as he walks to school.

The boy perceives going to school as a punishment and promises his dad that he will behave. The father laughs and tells him school is not a punishment, but his best opportunity and chance to make a good life for himself—the factory that produces worthwhile citizens. The boy does not want to go—sees the school as a grim place. The father gives his son some advice and then gently pushes him into school.

The boy slowly meets some children. They begin to have some conversations and the bell rings.

The children are placed in groups and lead to class. Teachers and scholars are their new fathers and mothers. The children accepted/submitted.

A shift.

The boy describes people making friends, choosing girls to fall in love with. Variety, play games and music, and learning—language, religion, math. Ate and had a nap—go on with friendship, love and learning.

Winds and accidents happened. Patience was needed. Rivalries and hatred—fighting too. Authority smiles, but also scolds. It was too late to change their minds about anything. Ahead lay exertion, struggle, and perseverance. Opportunities for success and happiness—some took it.

The bell rings, signaling the end of the school/word day. The boy says goodbye to friends and sweethearts and “Passed through the gate”.

Waits for his father, but he doesn't come. The boy sees a middle-aged man and talks to him (obviously an old friend). The boy continues to walk—the gardens and orchards are all gone. Now there are cars, buildings and tons of people all around.

Noise and commotion everywhere! How could all of this have happened in a single day?! Where is my home? Confusion of the very old (dementia). Too afraid to cross the street. Suddenly a young boy appears and offers to take "Grandpa" across.

Neruda's odes

The Lizard—a childhood memory—Spring day of daydreaming instead of studying
The Watermelon—a childhood memory—Summer day—heat and thirst—the watermelon quenches thirst and relief and satisfaction

DETAILED NOTES

- The Lizard is brilliantly described. Blending in with his surroundings. Fantastical comparison to outer space and gems. Represents the life and activity of the forest. Old and patient as a stone-timeless. Water-smooth and quick and hard to hold on to. In perspective—to a fly, the lizard is a DRAGON.

To me: a memory of my childhood days. A day that I ditched school to come lie down beside a cool stream and day dream. A perfect day, cool and sunny and enjoyed.

- The Watermelon is described in contrast to the unbearable bright heat of summer. The summer day wounds you, stabs your feet and your eyes. Your mouth is dry and your whole body aches with the heat. You are so thirsty you want to drink up a whole waterfall, the ice of the south pole. And then...

The Watermelon! Round-star-filled watermelon, Fruit of the Thirst Tree, Green Whale of the summer, Coolness calms the thirst. The insides are revealed-Green, White and Red. Cool and Sweet. Pure enjoyment. And you dive in to eat it—Bury ourselves in it.

So light and refreshing that it doesn't weigh us down. In the hot afternoon, the refreshment of the watermelon, a cool drop of water.

January 1st by Octavio Paz

- Doors open-opportunity—tomorrow we need to start planning our lives
- Create the reality of who/what will be
- Second of a second—that timeless moment between dusk and dawn—that heartbeat between what we wish and what is real
- Will the sun come up again? Uncertainty and fears—yes it does and time moves on
- Time continues to move forward, with or without us
- When we sleep we remain in the past and imaginary places
- When we awake—we face the new day—everyday has countless opportunities and hope for the future.

- Enter the unknown—the future

100 years to live

15- stuck between childhood (10) and adulthood (20)—Time to Choose

22-sex

33-still the man, grown, family on my mind

45-midlife crisis

67-afternoon—we're moving on

99-just one moment left to reflect back on your life

Live Like You Were Dying

Don't take Life/Time for Granted

Fulfilled his "bucket list;" but more importantly, he became a better person-friend, husband, son, spoke sweeter, loved deeper, gave forgiveness