

Christopher Marlowe's "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" &  
 Sir Walter Raleigh's "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd"  
 pp. 232 – 235

1. Why were the poems Marlowe translated burned?
2. Why was Marlowe jailed?
3. Of what did Thomas Kyd accuse Marlowe?
4. How did Marlowe die?
5. What theory about Marlowe's life and death is described in the text?
6. What characteristic do Marlowe's tragic heroes share?
  
7. Define **pastoral**.
8. What is the most famous of all English pastorals?
9. What does the shepherd in Marlowe's poem want?
10. What does the shepherd in Marlowe's poem offer his love to make his world sound attractive and desirable? (Fill in chart below.)

The beauty of nature	Luxuries	Entertainment

11. What phrase does the shepherd repeat 3 times?
12. Is the shepherd idealistic or realistic? Why do you think so? Why does he take this approach?
13. What images appeal to each of the following senses?

Hearing	Sight	Smell	Touch

14. How does this poem fit into the *carpe diem* tradition?
  
15. How is Sir Walter Raleigh described in the text?
16. Why was Raleigh imprisoned in the Tower of London?
  
17. What is a nymph?
18. Under what circumstances does the nymph say she would consent to be the shepherd's love?  
 What does she mean by this?
19. List some similarities between Raleigh's poems and Marlowe's.
20. How do the two poems contrast?
21. How does the poet satirize the *carpe diem* theme?

## Imitating Marlowe and Raleigh: Poem of Seduction and Poem of Reply

**Purpose:** To create your own “poem of seduction” and a “poem of reply” (persuasion)  
To imitate the structure of Marlowe’s and Raleigh’s poems  
To focus on diction to create tone and meaning

**Audience:** Both poems should be appropriate for a public audience; i.e., you should be able to read them in front of anyone (the school board, your church, your parents, Madison’s teachers and administration, an elementary class, etc.) without questionable content or innuendo.

**Content:** Each poem should be at least 4 quatrains long, follow an aabb rhyme scheme, approximate iambic tetrameter, include a refrain, and contain imagery that appeals to various senses. The “poem of seduction” can exaggerate or idealize in order to persuade, whereas the “poem of reply” should answer the arguments in the “poem of seduction” with logic, realism, and possibly even scorn.

Below are some prewriting and revision tips to help you to think about your poems and to plan.

### **Prewriting:**

#### “Poem of Seduction”

1. Who is the speaker of your poem of seduction?
2. Who is the intended audience?
3. What does he/she want?
4. Write a line that could express the speaker’s desire in the poem.
5. Make a list of reasons the speaker could use to persuade the intended audience.

#### “Poem of Reply”

1. Who is the speaker of your poem of reply?
2. What is the speaker’s attitude toward the speaker of the “poem of seduction”?
3. Write a line that could serve as a refrain in your poem of reply.
4. What arguments will the speaker for each of the reasons given in the poem of seduction?

### **Drafting:**

Draft your poem of seduction imitating the elements of Marlowe’s poem (meter, stanza form, rhyme scheme, repetition, tone). Then, draft a poem of reply imitating the elements of Raleigh’s poem.

### **Revision:**

Think about your word choice. How do your words reflect the speaker’s attitude? What poetic elements have you used to enrich your poem? (allusion, metaphor, simile, synecdoche, alliteration, imagery)