

Assignment

In “Sonnet XI” Pablo Neruda describes feelings of longing *for* love, whereas in “Tonight I Can Write,” the poet describes feelings of longing *after* love. Neither poem, however, seems to describe a love actually *in progress*.

Using the two poems as evidence (essentially treating them as if they were one text), describe the difference between the anticipation of a hypothetical love and the remembrance of a love that has ended. You should consider the formal organization of the two texts, especially the poet’s use of imagery. If relevant, you may also wish to consider the *implied* comparison that Neruda makes to love as it is experienced in progress.

This should be done in two to three paragraphs (the prompt itself gives you one obvious way of organizing the assignment).

There is a model for writing about diction and imagery in support of larger idea on my web-page.

Grading and Due Date

This is due Wednesday or Thursday November 14 or November 15 (depending on class period). If you turn in the assignment early enough, I will mark it up with comments and corrections as if it were a timed writing. If you turn in the assignment early, there will be a small grade incentive (+3 points). If you miss the midnight deadline but turn in the assignment before eight hours have elapsed, there will be a small point deduction (-3 points). If you turn in the assignment between eight and twenty-four hours late there will be a larger point deduction (-10 points). If you turn in the assignment at any point after that, there will be a substantial point deduction (-20 points; this is a flat deduction, not a cumulative one based on the number of days late).

If you turn in the assignment late, but do not want points deducted, you may earn back credit by doing also completing an analysis of two or three of the Neruda poems about time (downloadable on my web site), using the patterns of diction and imagery of the poems to hypothesize about Neruda’s overall conception of time (what it is, how it is experienced, etc.).



Pablo Neruda