The Elegy Bibliography

D. 65. The assignment was to write on two poems. Also to write a proposal indicating the subject of your paper and your thesis. The annotationsthen need to show how you are going to develop your thesis.

The formats of all your entries do not follow MLA style and need to be corrected. Titles should be capitalized, editors of collections and anothogies marked by “ed.”, cities and date of publication included in the proper place.

You will have to find another poem for comparison/contrast. Perhaps another elegy, though not necessarily pastoral elegy. What about Ben Jonson’s short poem on the death of his first son Benjamin? Which is more personal and sincerely mournful? Which is more philosophical? Are they both Christian? About poetry itself?

Milton, J., & Hughes, M. Y. (1975). *Paradise regained: the Minor poems, and Samson Agonistes; complete and arranged chronologically*. Odyssey Press. You can’t use a primary sources in an annotated bib, only secondary sources. The only time when you can is to make use of introductions and footnotes to the edited volume.

The book gives a detailed work of the poems by Milton. [The descriptions are in pastoral imagery—what descriptions?]. They together- Lycidas and Milton - began their study early in the morning, continued throughout the day late into the night. Besides, there were innocent recreations. But now that Lycidas was dead; a great change, heavy change had taken place. Milton laments the death of Lycidas in the manner of traditional elegiac poets. He asks the Muse where she had been when her Lycidas was dying, and adds that even her presence would not have saved him.

Lambert, E. Z. (1976). *Placing sorrow: a study of the pastoral elegy convention from Theocritus to Milton* (No. 60).Univ of North Carolina Pr.

According to the author, the elegiac form dates back to the 7th century B.C. in Greece, CS however, when the elegy was taken up in English poetry in the 16th century it took on a slightly different definition, more closely associated with the way it is defined today. In English poetry, the elegy refers to a reflective poem that does not have a set form or meter, like it did when used in Greece, but is identified by its connection to lamentation, loss, sorrow, or regret. Also it’s typical to end with a message of consolation.

Milton, J. (2009). *The complete poetry and essential prose of John Milton*.Modern Library.

In this book, the authors claim that elegies are used to express emotions associated with grief and loss. The expressions of lamentation often present in these poems use repetition and recollections of the past to express a strong sense of loss and grief. Milton’s Lycidas is a monody in the form of a pastoral elegy written in 1637 to lament the accidental death, by drawing of Milton’s friend Edward King who was a promising young man of great intelligence. The elegy takes its name from the subject matter, not its form. No rules are laid down for the meter.

Lewalski, B. K. (2008). *The life of John Milton: a critical biography*. John Wiley & Sons.

Lewalski talks about the life of Milton and his works. He says that the theme of the elegy is mournful or sadly reflective. It is usually a lamentation of the dead. Besides some somber themes, such as unrequited love, or a great national disaster can as well be the elegiac theme. Though lyrical, it is not spontaneous, and is often the result of deliberate poetic art, and can be as elaborate in style as the ode. We read the elegy as a conscious work of art, and not as a spontaneous expression of sorrow.

Milton, John, and Merritt Yerkes Hughes. *Complete poems and major prose*. Hackett Publishing, 1957.

This is a collection of the poems by Milton, where the Elegy is well –analyzed?. Any elaborate and conscious mode of utterance might cause us to question the sincerity of the poet’s emotion. Milton has written spontaneously, without conscious intention? Dr. Johnson, criticizing 'Lycidas' remarks, “where there is leisure for fiction, there is little grief.” Neither neither in contrast to what idea about the elegy?is elegy a mere expression of a sense of loss. The elegiac poet engages himself in discursive reflections. Death, the primary theme of most elegies, is a vast evocative theme. [It leads the poet to regions of reflections usually lying beyond the lyric imagination. I don’t understand—there are many lyrics that reflect on death.]Death can be, and is often, the starting point for the poet to deal with serious themes.

Vickers, B. (Ed.). (2003). *English Renaissance literary criticism*. Oxford University Press on Demand.

In this book, the author says that Milton gives us in 'Lycidas', speculations on the nature of death, tributes to friends, as also literary criticism. He comments on the degradation of poetry and religion in 'Lycidas'. And “Lycidas” would be a poor poem without its passage on fame, and the onslaught on the corrupt clergy of that day. Though grief is the dominant condition in the early parts of an elegy, many elegies end on a note of joyful resignation, and also on a note of affirmation. The pastoral elegy uses the mechanism of pastoral convention-shepherds and shepherdesses, incidents form bucolic life, and rustic speech. Originally developed among the Sicilian Greeks, it was later developed by Virgil and introduced into England during the Renaissance. This sources seems really helpful but you need to comment on the specifically Biblical references in the consolation section of the poem.

*The Norton Anthology of Poetry.* Shorter 5th ed. Margaret Ferguson, Mary Jo Salter, and Jon Stallworthy, eds. ISBN: 0-393-97921-2.Again, you can’t use a primary source for your annotated bib. Your research paper should list the one primary sources you’ve used in reading the poem.

After reading this book, we get the idea that the poem 'Lycidas' can be conveniently divided into six sections (1) a prologue, four main parts, and an epilogue. In the prologue (lines 1-24) Milton invokes the Muse and explains the reasons for writing the poem. Although Milton had decided not to write poetry till his powers matured, “bitter constraint and sad occasion” compels the poet to attempt an elegy. That occasion is the untimely death of Lycidas. In the Second Section (lines, 25-84) he describes the type of life Lycidas and the poet had at Cambridge

Abrams, M.H., and Geoffrey Galt Harpham.*A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 11th ed. ISBN: 978-1-285-46056-7

This book goes into details of the poem. The author says that at the beginning of the third section (which contains lines 85-131) Milton returns to the pastoral style, and describes a procession of mourners lamenting Lycidas’s death. The procession is led by Triton, the herald of the Sea, and the last to come is St. Peter “The Pilot of the Galilean lake.” Through he mouth of St. Peter, Milton gives us a burning denunciation of contemporary clergy, and the sad condition of the Protestant Church in England. In these lines, we have powerful expressions of some of Milton’s passionate convictions. Is harsh satire found in other (pastoral) elegies? What is its relevance to the topic of this poem.

Bibliography

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