

NAME:

SURNAME/S:

ANSWER THREE OUT OF THESE FIVE QUESTIONS:

1. Identify the poem below and discuss its form and meaning:

My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun,
 Coral is far more red than her lips' red.
 If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun,
 If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.
 I have seen roses damasked, red and white,
 But no such roses see I in her cheeks.
 And in some perfumes is there more delight
 Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks
 I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
 That music hath a far more pleasing sound.
 I grant I never saw a goddess go,
 My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground.
 And yet, by Heaven, I think my love as rare
 As any she belied with false compare.

2. Identify and discuss the following extract, particularly in terms of the linguistic choices made by the author. Which kind of woman does the extract describe? In which ways does it relate or challenge the portrayal of women seen in other texts analyzed in class?

Her hosen weren of fin scarlet red,
 Ful streite yteyd, and shoes ful moiste and newe.
 Boold was her face, and fair, and reed of hewe.
 She was a worthy womman all her live.
 Housbondes at chirche dore she hadde five,
 Withouten oother compaignye in youthe.
 [...]
 And thries had she been at Jerusalem.

3. How does the figure of the bird work as a symbol in John Keats' 'Ode to a Nightingale' and Thomas Hardy's 'The Darkling Thrush'?
4. Identify the following passage, connect it with the general theme of the book and discuss power relations in other works illustrating colonial dynamics:

But to return to my new companion. I was greatly delighted with him, and made it my business to teach him everything that was proper to make him useful, handy, and helpful; but especially to make him speak, and understand me when I spake. And he was the aptest scholar that ever was; and particularly was so merry, so constantly diligent, and so pleased when he could but understand me, or make me understand him, that it was very pleasant to me to talk to him.

5. Identify the following passage, connect it with the general theme of the book and discuss it in relation to other works seen in class:

I thought that the goal of reading was to establish the meaning of texts. I used to be a Jane Austen man. [...] I wrote five books on Jane Austen, every one of which was trying to establish what her novels meant [...] so that there would be nothing further to say about the novel in question. [...] Of course, I never finished it. The project was not so much Utopian as self-defeating. By that I don't just mean that if successful it would have eventually put us all out of business. I mean that it couldn't succeed because it isn't possible, and it isn't possible because of the nature of language itself.