

Name: _____

Figurative Language Poem 6

from X

By Emily Dickinson

A precious, mouldering¹ pleasure 't is
To meet an antique book,
In just the dress his century wore;
A privilege, I think,

His venerable hand to take,
And warming in our own,
A passage back, or two, to make
To times when he was young.

His quaint opinions to inspect,
His knowledge to unfold
On what concerns our mutual mind,
The literature of old;

His presence is enchantment,
You beg him not to go;
Old volumes shake their vellum² heads
And tantalize, just so.

Review Questions

Directions: Respond to these questions to the best of your ability. Answer the questions completely. If you need more space, use the back or a separate sheet.

1. Identify two examples of **personification**: explain what is being personified in each example.
2. Identify two examples of **metaphor**: explain which two things are being compared in each example.
3. Find two examples of **alliteration**. List the alliterative words.
4. What **tone** does the speaker use in these poems? How does the speaker feel about the subjects of these poems? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.
5. What does the speaker mean by the following lines from XXI, "He knew no more that he was poor, / Nor that his frame was dust." Why is the man unaware that he is poor? What is meant by "dust frame"?
6. Compare and contrast these two poems. How are they similar and different?



XXI

By Emily Dickinson

He ate and drank the precious words,
His spirit grew robust;
He knew no more that he was poor,
Nor that his frame was dust.
He danced along the dingy days,
And this bequest³ of wings
Was but a book. What liberty
A loosened spirit brings!

1. Slowly decay or disintegrate
2. Fine parchment made from calf skin.
3. Pass something on to someone else