

**AP English Literature
FRQ 1 (*Vanitas* paired poems)**

The poem listed below are all concerned with the ephemeral nature of human existence. Choose two of the poems. Then, in a well-written and developed essay, compare and contrast the poems, analyzing how the authors employ such devices as figurative language, detail, point of view, structure, diction, and tone to convey their central ideas.

“A Litany in the Time of Plague” by Thomas Nashe (1592)
 “Sonnet 75” By Edmund Spenser (1594)
 “Sonnet 73” by William Shakespeare (1609)
 “To His Coy Mistress” by Andrew Marvell (c. 1650)

“Ozymandias” by Percy Bysshe Shelley (1818)
 “Nothing Gold Can Stay” by Robert Frost (1923)
 “Fern Hill” by Dylan Thomas (1945)
 “Mirror” by Sylvia Plath (1961)

poem 1 title, author, date, genre	poem 2 title, author, date, genre
summary of poem 1	summary of poem 2
poem 1’s tone	poem 2’s tone
poem 1’s central idea or theme	poem 2’s central idea or theme

primary similarities	primary differences
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conclusion (human condition, cultural connection)

poem 1 evidence	poem 1 analysis (including literary devices)

poem 2 evidence	poem 2 analysis (including literary devices)