

***Letters to a Young Poet* and “Initiation”**

Mid-Unit Assessment

Prompt and Instructions:

Write an essay that discusses **three** examples of how Rilke’s use of **at least two** different writing strategies affects his message and tone.

Select **three** sentences or phrases from “Letter One” of Rainer Maria Rilke’s *Letters to A Young Poet*. Explain how these selections represent significant pieces of advice, and explain how Rilke’s use of a writing strategy gives each phrase its specific meaning and creates the tone of the text. Finally, explain how the three sentences or phrases contribute to Rilke’s overall advice.

In your answer be sure to:

- Write a full-length essay with all the appropriate parts of an essay.
- Write each quote and writing strategy; for instance, you may note a metaphor, a word in italics, or perhaps repetition.
- Analyze how each example of the writing strategies you choose impacts Rilke’s message and his tone.
- Select a variety of evidence from the text; for instance, you may choose two wealth metaphors and a plant metaphor (not three house metaphors), and you may choose two examples (not three) of the same piece of advice.
- Maintain a semi-formal tone and follow the conventions of standard written English.

Things to Remember:

- Select only short phrases or *highly relevant* single words for quoting.
- Work to integrate quotations into your sentences.
- Include a discussion of the writing strategy.
- Arrange the sequencing of ideas in your paragraphs logically; the thesis and topic sentence(s) will help.
- Relate all of your choices to Rilke’s overall central idea.

Preparation:

- Look up “tone” in your Glossary of Literary Terms for a list of words that describe various tones.
- Review your Lessons 1-3 questions, your notes, and your Lessons 1-2 Quick Writes, looking especially for information about writing strategies, central ideas, and tone.
- Review your text and annotations, looking especially for annotations about writing strategies, central ideas, and tone.
- Annotate your text by marking examples of writing strategies that create tone in the letter.