

“The Sound of the Sea”

By Henry Wasdsworth Longfellow

The sea awoke at midnight from its sleep,
And round the pebbly beaches far and wide
I heard the first wave of the rising tide
Rush onward with uninterrupted sweep;

A voice out of the silence of the deep, 5
A sound mysteriously multiplied
As of a cataract from the mountain's side,
Or roar of winds upon a wooded steep.

So comes to us at times, from the unknown 10
And inaccessible solitudes of being,
The rushing of the sea-tides of the soul;
And inspirations, that we deem our own,
Are some divine foreshadowing and foreseeing
Of things beyond our reason or control.

“Sonnet 55”

By William Shakespeare

Not marble, nor the gilded monuments
Of princes, shall outlive this powerful rhyme;
But you shall shine more bright in these contents
Than unswept stone, besmear'd with sluttish time.

When wasteful war shall statues overturn, 5
And broils root out the work of masonry,
Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn
The living record of your memory.

'Gainst death and all-oblivious enmity 10
Shall you pace forth; your praise shall still find room
Even in the eyes of all posterity
That wear this world out to the ending doom.

So, till the judgment that yourself arise,
You live in this, and dwell in lovers' eyes.

Directions: After reading, annotating, and analyzing the poems, answer the following questions **on a separate piece of paper**. Be clear and do your best with the annotations. It will help you answer the questions.

“The Sound of the Sea” Questions

1. In what sense does the sea awaken at midnight?
2. To what two things does the speaker compare the sound of the rising tide (lines 7-8)?
3. What is the subject of the sestet (the last six lines of the poem)?
4. The speaker compares inspiration to an ocean tide (line 11). What does this suggest about how inspiration operates in people?
5. When the speaker labels inspiration as divine, what does this suggest about its source? In other words, where does inspiration come from?

“Sonnet 55” Questions

1. A) Each stanza of the sonnet is a self-contained unit of thought. A) What are the “marble” and “gilded monuments”? B) What happens to these stone monuments over time?
2. The second stanza deals with the destructiveness of war. What is the “living record” that survives these disasters?
3. According to stanza 3, how does the poet assure his subject’s immortality?
4. The word “live” is key in the sonnet. In what sense does the speaker use the word in the last line of the poem? In other words, what is the speaker trying to say by using this word?