

DO NOT GENTLE GO INTO THAT GOOD NIGHT

(Dylan Thomas)

The writer of this poem is talking to his father, who was a strong, healthy man and is now very old and weak.

- Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
5 Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
10 Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,
15 Rage, rage against the dying of the light.
And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.



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(Text: Spiazzi, Tavella, Layton (2012). *Performer. Culture and Literature 1*. Zanichelli)

ACTIVITIES

1. Find the following words. What do you think they mean? Use a dictionary when necessary.
 - a. Rage
 - b. To fork
 - c. Frail
 - d. Grieve
 - e. Blaze
2. Find examples of the following literary devices: metaphor, alliteration, repetition, oxymoron, paradox, and simile.
3. What is the narrator point of view?
4. Write the rhyme scheme and the meter of the poem.
5. The message of this poem is “fight till the last gasp”. Do you agree with it?

KEY

1. Find the following words. What do you think they mean? Use a dictionary when necessary.

- a. Rage
- b. To fork
- c. Frail
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- e. Blaze

2. Find examples of the following literary devices:

Metaphor: good night / dying of light (=death), light (=life)

Alliteration: In every stanza (not – night, go – good, through – their, deeds – danced, sang – sun, blind – blaze...)

Repetition: “Do not go gentle into that good night.”, “Rage, rage against the dying of the light.”

Oxymoron: good night (=good death, but death is not good); blinding sight

Paradox: Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray. (If he cursed him that would show that he still had the spirit to fight)

Simile: “blind eyes could blaze like meteors”

3. What is the narrator point of view? First and Sixth stanzas: 2nd person (the author talks to his father). The rest of them: 3rd person.

4. Write the rhyme scheme and the meter of the poem.

Rhyme scheme: A B A in the first five stanzas, A B A A in the last one.

Meter: iambic pentameter

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Old AGE should BURN and RAVE at CLOSE of DAY

...

5. The message of this poem is “fight till the last gasp”. Do you agree with it?

Students’ own answers.



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