



# Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night

Dylan Thomas

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.

5 Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
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.

15 Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,  
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.

## Poetic Forms

Where are the first and third lines of the first stanza repeated in this villanelle?

## Spiral Review

**FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE** What type of figurative language does the author employ in line 14? Explain your answer.

## Read Fluently

Where will you pause when reading lines 16–19? What punctuation indicates each pause?

## ◀ Critical Viewing

Which of the four types of men mentioned in the poem do you think is represented in this painting? Explain.

# To an Athlete Dying Young

A. E. Housman

The time you won your town the race  
We chaired you through the marketplace;  
Man and boy stood cheering by,  
And home we brought you shoulder-high.

5 Today, the road all runners come,  
Shoulder-high we bring you home,  
And set you at your threshold down,  
Townsmen of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away  
10 From fields where glory does not stay  
And early though the laurel<sup>1</sup> grows  
It withers quicker than the rose.

Eyes the shady night has shut  
Cannot see the record cut,  
15 And silence sounds no worse than cheers  
After earth has stopped the ears:

Now you will not swell the rout  
Of lads that wore their honors out,  
Runners whom renown outran  
20 And the name died before the man.

So set, before its echoes fade,  
The fleet foot on the sill of shade.  
And hold to the low lintel up  
The still-defended challenge cup.

25 And round that early-laureled head  
Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead,  
And find unwithered on its curls  
The garland briefer than a girl's.

## Vocabulary

**lintel** (lɪn' tɪ) *n.* horizontal bar above a door

1. laurel symbol of victory.

1. **Key Ideas and Details (a)** In "To an Athlete," what are three advantages of dying young, according to the speaker?  
**(b) Interpret:** Does the speaker entirely mean what he says about these advantages? Explain.