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Adaption Paper

Petrarch Sonnet 90 & Shakespeare Sonnet 130

Throughout the ages literary figures have influenced one another through their works. While embarking on the journey through Petrarch's literary works, it is clear to see that he has had a major influence on numerous authors and pieces of literature throughout time. Among the numerous authors Petrarch has influenced is one of the greatest writers in English literature, William Shakespeare. It is clear to see that Petrarch's sonnet 90 has had a major influence on Shakespeare's sonnet 130.

Throughout Petrarch's *Canzoniere* he writes about his unrequited love for a woman named Laura, in which he creates elaborate metaphors describing her physical and spiritual beauty. After reading Shakespeare's sonnet 130, it is clear to see that his poem was influenced by Petrarch's work and acts as a satire, or parody, of his works. Petrarch's poems elaborately displays his head over heels infatuation with the "love of his life", Laura. Shakespeare takes Petrarch's love sonnet and satirizes it by writing a tribute sonnet to his uncomely mistress, often referred to as the "dark lady". Sonnet 130, written by Shakespeare, is a parody of the conventional love sonnet which was made popular by Petrarch.

Within the two works, the timeless theme of "unrequited love" and "total consumption of love" are evident. Both writers also address lackluster love, or love that continues on even after the beautiful luster has worn off or died, or in many cases, was never even there to begin with. While Petrarch uses images of beauty to describe his affection for Laura and his infatuation with her, Shakespeare speaks of lusterless love with biting irony, using images of beauty that his mistress does not have, while comparing her to what she is not. Petrarch compares Laura's beauty to the sun numerous times throughout his sonnets and specifically calls her "a godly spirit

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This is a literary analysis that I completed in which I compared and contrasted two sonnets written by two of the most influential writers in history. This paper shows my skills in analyzing and interpreting written works and correlates with NCTE standards 3.1- Knowing skills of English Language because I was able to read these two works and understand and analyze them. This also shows evidences of standard 3.3- know reading process because it is clear by reading my paper that I have full capabilities of the reading process. Standard 3.4 know different composing processes is evident as well because both of these two works are written in Sonnet form, which is a different type of structure for writing, which also coorelates with standard 3.5 -know/ use extensive range of literature. My ability to emphasize varied purposes for language use (Standard 4.7) , is also shown through this work because I was able to decode the sonnets and discover their true meaning behind their written words. This is an example of various purposes of language because there were various meanings implied behind the language and words written in the texts.

and a living sun” in sonnet 90. Shakespeare takes this metaphor and uses it to describe the things that his mistress is not, “My mistress’s eyes are nothing like the sun” in sonnet 130. Petrarch opens sonnet 90 with “SHE’D let her gold hair flow free in the breeze that whirled it into thousands of sweet knots”. Blonde or “golden” hair was a commonly used symbol for beauty throughout the Renaissance era and into the later centuries of poetry. Shakespeare once again takes Petrarch’s symbol for beauty and uses it to show his disgust in his mistress by writing, “If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head” in sonnet 130. Shakespeare uses objects of perfection to illustrate that his lover is not beautiful, which is a total rejection of Petrarch’s form and content within his poems. Petrarch paints this image of the ideal woman, so much so that this woman could not possibly exist and it is clear to see that Shakespeare mocks Petrarch’s “ideal woman” in sonnet 130.

During his time, Petrarch made the conventional love sonnet popular. The structure of Petrarch’s sonnets are made up of 14 lines, including one octet (8 lines) and one sestet. All of Petrarch’s sonnets are comprised of this structure. Over the years Petrarch’s standard sonnet structure was changed by Wyatt and Surrey, in which the new sonnets were composed of 3 quatrains and one couplet. Shakespeare’s poetry mirrored the structure of Wyatt and Surrey because he was born after the adaption to the new sonnet form. This explains why the format of Shakespeare’s poetry differs from Petrarch’s sonnet form, as well as expresses the influence Petrarch had on Shakespeare’s structure, and on many other poets throughout the ages. Petrarch utilizes the octet/ sestet form to develop his experience of Laura, “and I with all love’s tender in my breast- it’s no surprise I quickly caught on fire”, and to develop her characteristics in his first few lines of the sestet, “the way she walked was not the way of mortals but of angelic forms, and when she spoke more than an earthly voice it was that sang”. In contrast, Shakespeare uses the

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Petrarch and Shakespeare are highly admired writers because of their advanced writing skills. By being able to read through their sonnets and interpret them I have acquired skills that help me to understand extensive ranges of literature. It is clear that I know the reading process and can analyze literature, which is displayed here in my comparison and contrast of these two works. Along with comparing and contrasting these two sonnets, I also discuss how Petrarch influenced one of Shakespeare’s most famous works. Knowing these skills will be helpful for my teaching career because I will be able to gain a better understanding and interpretation of the text my students will be reading, and I will be able to teach my students how to acquire those same skills to be better readers and writers. Interpreting texts is a major part in understanding literature, so if students can acquire these skills early on in their English reading/writing career they will be better prepared and equipped for the future.

quatrain and couplet to introduce 3 topics related to his main subject of what she is/has by first describing what he has seen and smelled, "I have seen roses damask'd, red and white...Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks. He then describes what she is negatively compared to, "I love to hear her speak, yet well I know that music hath a far more pleasing sound; I grant I never saw a goddess go". At the end of each of the two sonnets, both writers proclaim their for the women even though their love was never fully reciprocated. Petrarch writes, "my wound still bleeds, although the bow's unbent" expressing that even though cupid's arrow is no longer stuck in him, the wound "cupid" (or Laura) has left is still there; meaning that he still loves Laura as though she were still there. Shakespeare ends sonnet 130 very similarly to Petrarch's, "and yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare as any she belied with false compare," proclaiming his love for his mistress, even though she lacks adornment over him. In the end, the two writers both embrace the theme of total and consuming love.