

ENGLISH II

POETRY SELECTIONS ACTIVITY #3

*The Kraken*

Below the thunders of the upper deep;  
Far, far beneath in the abysmal sea,  
His ancient, dreamless, uninvaded sleep  
The <sup>1</sup>Kraken sleepeth: faintest sunlights flee  
About his shadowy sides: above him swell  
Huge sponges of millennial growth and height;  
And far away into the sickly light,  
From many a wondrous grot and secret cell  
Unnumbered and enormous <sup>2</sup>polypi  
<sup>3</sup>Winnow with giant arms the slumbering green.  
There hath he lain for ages and will lie  
Battening upon huge sea-worms in his sleep,  
Until <sup>4</sup>the latter fire shall heat the deep;  
Then once by man and angels to be seen,  
In roaring he shall rise and on the surface die.

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

<sup>1</sup> **Kraken:** Scandinavian folklore, a giant squid-like sea monster

<sup>2</sup> **polypi:** sea creature with long, waving tentacles around the moulth

<sup>3</sup> **Winnow:** fan; beat with wings or tentacles

<sup>4</sup> **the latter fire:** the end of the world

*Reapers*

Black reapers with the sound of steel on stones  
Are sharpening scythes. I see them place the hones  
In their hip-pockets as a thing that's done,  
And start their silent swinging, one by one.  
Black horses drive a mower through the weeds,  
And there, a field rat, startled, squealing bleeds,  
His belly close to ground. I see the blade,  
Blood-stained, continue cutting weeds and shade.

By Jean Toomer

**PART 1. DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions about the two poems in complete sentences.**

1. Identify the two sound devices used by Tennyson in the first 4 lines of "The Kraken" and provide 2 examples of each

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2. What has the Kraken been doing and what is the only thing that could change its activity? Cite 1-2 pieces of textual evidence in support.

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3. In the last description of the blade, how is it portrayed both negatively and positively?

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