

XLIII. "How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways..." Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.

- 5 I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with a passion put to use
10 In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints, --- I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life! --- and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

1. Lines 13-14 emphasize
 - a. The passionate nature of the poet's love
 - b. The pure nature of the poet's love
 - c. The changeable nature of the poet's love
 - d. The permanent nature of the poet's love
2. The first line of the poem
 - a. Presents a question for the audience to answer
 - b. Asks a rhetorical question which the poem answers
 - c. States the poem's overall theme
 - d. Contains an implied metaphor
3. The dominant literary device at work in this text is
 - a. Metaphor
 - b. Personification
 - c. Parallel structure
 - d. Symbolism
4. The author uses parallel structure throughout the poem in order to:
 - a. create a list of ways she is loved
 - b. Enumerate her lover's fine qualities
 - c. Emphasize the ways she adores her lover
 - d. Create a sing-song rhythm for the poem
5. The "quiet need" of Lines 5-6 is best contrasted by
 - a. Line 7
 - b. Line 8
 - c. Lines 9-10
 - d. Line 12-13
6. In line 7, the word "freely" most nearly means
 - a. Publicly
 - b. Independently
 - c. Limitlessly
 - d. Eternally

Additional Questions:

3. The attitude of the speaker toward her audience is best described as
- a. Fickle
 - b. Contemptuous
 - c. Devoted
 - d. Disappointed