

English IV
Theme Assessment
Textual Evidence

You need at least two details from the poem to develop your textual evidence. Your details may be direct quotation or indirect quotation. With both, make sure you clearly identify who says it and what is being said. The evidence/details should not sound as if you are saying it.

- I. State your theme statement
- II. Provide a transitional statement to lead into textual evidence
Ex. Owen uses vivid imagery to illustrate this message.
- III. Provide any necessary background information and introduce quotation
Ex. As the speaker says to the reader, "if in some smothering dreams you too could pace behind the wagon that we flung him in," he describes the horrible sights of war.
- IV. State textual evidence
- V. Prove/Explain- Explain what textual evidence means and how it relates to your theme.
 - **Avoid This quote means . .**
 - **Avoid meaning . . .**
 - **In well-developed sentences, explain what is being said.**
 - **Use vocabulary that reflects your theme.**
- VI. Transition and repeat the steps above.

Theme Textual Evidence Paragraph

The theme of "To An Athlete Dying Young" is glory fades. Through the analogy of a runner, the town's champion, the speaker illustrates this message. He explains by speaking to the athlete who dies young that he will miss the time when his fame and glory will cease. The young athlete dies when he has the distinction of having a sports record, and the speaker says to him, because of his early death, he will miss the time when this aspect of his glory will no longer exist. The speaker says to him, "eyes the shady night has shut cannot see the record cut." Now, a dead young man, the runner's eyes are closed eternally and will never face a beaten record. The speaker of the poem further informs the famed star that his once renown sports colleagues lived long enough when their "name died before the man." However, he, the athlete, will not "swell the rout" of such tragedy. The runner has bypassed the act of living longer than his name lives and losing his notoriety. Through the death of an athlete who misses living long enough to have his record cut and his life longer than his name, the speaker in "To Athlete Dying Young" conveys that such glory will fade.