

## Victorian Age – Poetry Worksheet

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

### “The Lady of Shalott” - Handout

1. The Lady of Shalott was written by \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ***Part I***

- 2-3. Shalott is an \_\_\_\_\_ in the midst of a river that flows to  
\_\_\_\_\_.

4. What is on the island?
5. How's the tower different from the other setting?
6. Is there any traffic on the river?
7. Who is in the tower?
8. What does the reaper hear coming from the tower?

#### ***Part II***

9. What does she do?
10. Why doesn't she look down to Camelot?
11. What reflects the shadows of the world?
12. What can she see in the mirror?
13. Does the Lady of Shalott seem to have anyone in her life?
14. The Lady of Shalott says, “I am half sick of \_\_\_\_\_.” What might this mean?

#### ***Part III***

15. One day she sees what or whom in the mirror?

16. How is Lancelot described?
17. What happens when she sees him in the mirror?
18. What happens to the mirror?

***Part IV***

19. Why does the Lady of Shalott come out of the tower?
20. What does she write on her boat?
21. As she travels down the river, she looks at the world with a  
\_\_\_\_\_ countenance.
22. What might this suggest?
23. Do you think that she is happy or sad?
24. Who do people hear from the boat?
25. What does this suggest?
26. What finally happens when the boat arrives?
27. What does Lancelot say?
28. Why is the outcome ironic and/or tragic?

**“Sonnets from the Portuguese” – pg. 899**

29. Who wrote this sonnet?
30. Why did she write it?
31. What type of sonnet is it – you may have to review pages 242-243?
32. What is the theme of sonnet 43?
33. How long does she plan on loving?

34. What kind of love is she seeking?

**“My Last Duchess” – pgs. 938-939**

35. My Last Duchess was written by \_\_\_\_\_.

36. It is in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.

37. The speaker of the poem is \_\_\_\_\_, a powerful Italian nobleman.

38. -39. He is showing a group of people a painting of \_\_\_\_\_ just as he’s preparing for his \_\_\_\_\_.

40. We quickly find out that his first wife is \_\_\_\_\_.

41. Who is Fra Pandolf? \_\_\_\_\_

42. The Duke tells us that people who have seen the painting have wondered about what? \_\_\_\_\_

43. – 44. He says “twas not her \_\_\_\_\_ presence only called that spot of joy into the Duchess’ cheek,” suggesting he believed she was \_\_\_\_\_.

45. What detail does the painting show on the Duchess’ throat?

\_\_\_\_\_

46. What could this suggest?

47. According to the Duke, his first wife “had a heart \_\_\_\_\_.”

48. He says, “she liked what she looked on and her looks went \_\_\_\_\_.”

49. What were the things the Duke said the Duchess liked as much as him?

\_\_\_\_\_

50. Why does this make him angry?

51. In line 46 he says, “This grew. I gave commands. Then all \_\_\_\_\_ stopped together.”

52. What might this suggest?

53. Referring to his wife to be, he says “his fair daughter’s self is my \_\_\_\_\_.”

54. What does this tell us about how he thinks of his fiancé or any other women for that matter?

### **Discussion**

1. How does he want people to see him?
2. How do you perceive the Duke?
3. How does he want people to see the Duchess?
4. How do you perceive the Duchess?

(Notice there’s a difference between what someone says and what is really true.)

### **“To An Athlete Dying Young” – pg. 957**

55. Who wrote this poem?

56. What two events are contrasted in the first two stanzas?

57. Why does the author feel the athlete is “lucky” to have died so young?

### **“The Man He Killed” – pg. 962**

58. Who wrote “The Man He Killed”?

59. Who is the speaker in this poem?

60. What did he just do?
61. What is the only reason he did this?
62. Would he have done this if it were any other time and place?
63. What would he and the man he killed probably have done at any other time?
64. What is the only reason he joined the war?
65. What does this poem tell us about the tragedy of war?

**“Ah, Are You Digging on My Grave?” – pg. 963**

66. Who wrote “Ah, Are you Digging on My Grave?”
67. The poem is in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.
68. Who is answering the woman? \_\_\_\_\_
69. Who is the first person the dead woman thinks comes to her grave?
70. Where does she find out this person is?
71. Who is the second person?
72. What does she find out about them?
73. Not even the woman’s enemy comes. Why?
74. Who is digging on the woman’s grave?
75. Why does she think he’s digging on her grave?
76. What reason does he give her?
77. What is the tone of the poem?
78. What does the poem suggest about sentimental illusions about love, life and death?