

I.

O strong soul, *by what shore*
Tarriest thou now ! For that force,
Surely, has not been left vain !
 Somewhere, surely, afar,
 In the *sounding labour-house vast*
Of being, is practis'd that strength,
 Zealous, beneficent, firm !
 Yes, in some far-shining sphere,
Conscious or not of the past,
 Still thou performest the word
 Of the Spirit in whom thou dost live—
 Prompt, unwearied, as here !
 Still thou upraimest with zeal
 The humble good from the ground,
 Sternly represses the bad !
 Still, like a trumpet, dost rouse
Those who with half-open eyes
Tread the border-land dim
'Twixt vice and virtue ; reviv'st,
 Succourest !—this was thy work,
 This was thy life upon earth.

What is the course of the life
 Of mortal men on the earth ?—
 Most men *eddy about*
 Here and there—eat and drink,
 Chatter and love and hate,
 Gather and squander, are rais'd
 Aloft, are hurl'd in the dust,
 Striving blindly, achieving
 Nothing ; and then they die—
 Perish—and no one asks
 Who or what they have been,
 More than he asks what waves,
 In the moonlit solitudes mild
 Of the *midmost Ocean*, have swell'd,
 Foam'd for a moment, and gone.

1. State, with reasons, whether each of the foregoing sections is a complete paragraph.

2. Explain and comment upon the meaning of the italicized parts.

3. How does the poet himself explain what he means by "that force"; "somewhere, afar"; "is practis'd that strength, zealous, beneficent, firm"; and "eddy about"?

4. Fully exemplify and explain the poet's use of repetition and contrast in the foregoing extract.

5. Shew, as well as possible, wherein consist the beauty and the appropriateness of ll. 33-36.

6. What characteristics of the author are exemplified in the foregoing extract?

II.

"Girt with many a baron bold
 Sublime their *starry fronts* they rear ;
 And gorgeous dames, and statesmen old
 In *bearded majesty*, appear.
 In the midst a form divine !
 Her eye proclaims her of the Briton-line ;
 Her lion-port, her awe-commanding face,
Attempter'd sweet to virgin-grace.
 What strings *symphonious tremble* in the air,
 What strains of vocal *transport* round her
 play,
 Hear from the grave, great Taliessin hear ;
They breathe a soul to animate thy clay.
 Bright Rapture calls, and *soaring*, as she sings,
Waves in the eye of heaven her many-colour'd
 wings.

"The verse adorn again
 Fierce War and faithful Love,
 And Truth severe, *by fairy Fiction drest.*
In buskin'd measures move
 Pale Grief, and *pleasing Pain,*
 With Horror, *tyrant of the throbbing breast.*
A voice, as of the cherub-choir,
Gales from blooming Eden bear ;
 And *distant warblings* lessen on my ear,
 That lost in long *futurity expire.*

1. How is this extract connected in sense with the rest of the ode? Account for the bard's attitude in the extract towards "Britannia's issue."

2. Explain the biographical references in "they," l. 2; "a form divine," l. 5; and "The verse—expire," ll. 15-24.

3. Discuss the meaning of ll. 1, 2, and 6-24, showing especially the force of the italicized parts.

4. Show, as fully as you can, how the poet has given beauty and force to his language.

III.

Break, break, break,
 On thy cold gray stones, O Sea !
 And I would that my tongue could utter
 The thoughts that arise in me.

O well for the fisherman's boy.
 That he shouts with his sister at play !
 O well for the sailor lad,
 That he sings in his boat on the bay !

And the stately ships go on
 To their haven under the hill ;
 But O for the touch of a vanish'd hand,
 And the sound of a voice that is still !