

Name _____

Tone Worksheet

Directions: Read each poem and then answer the following questions. (You may use the Tones and Meanings List at your table to help you identify different tones in the poems.)

Ellis Park

By Helen Hoyt

Little park that I pass through,
I carry off a piece of you
Every morning hurrying down
To my work-day in the town;
Carry you for country there
To make the city ways more fair.
I take your trees,
And your breeze,
Your greenness,
Your cleanness,
Some of your shade, some of your sky,
Some of your calm as I go by;
Your flowers to trim
The pavements grim;
Your space for room in the jostled street
And grass for carpet to my feet.

Your fountains take and sweet bird
calls
To sing me from my office walls.
All that I can see
I carry off with me.
But you never miss my theft,
So much treasure you have left.
As I find you, fresh at morning,
So I find you, home returning --
Nothing lacking from your grace.
All your riches wait in place
For me to borrow
On the morrow.

Do you hear this praise of you,
Little park that I pass through?

What is this poem about?

What is the speaker's tone?

Name _____

Explain your answer using textual evidence.

In Trouble and Shame

By D.H. Lawrence

I look at the swaling¹ sunset
And wish I could go also
Through the red doors beyond the black-purple bar.

I wish that I could go
Through the red doors where I could put off
My shame like shoes in the porch
My pain like garments,
And leave my flesh discarded lying
Like luggage of some departed traveller
Gone one knows not where.

Then I would turn round
And seeing my cast-off body
lying like lumber,
I would laugh with joy.

1. swaling: burning

What is this poem about?

What is the speaker's tone?

Explain your answer using textual evidence.

Noon

By Kendall Banning

The bees are humming, humming in the clover;
The bobolink¹ is singing in the rye;
The brook is purling², purling in the valley,
And the river's laughing, radiant, to the sky!

The buttercups are nodding in the sunlight;
The winds are whispering, whispering to the pine;
The joy of June has found me; as an aureole³ it's crowned me
Because, oh best beloved, you are mine!

- 1. **bobolink:** a songbird.
- 2. **purling:** when a stream flows with a murmuring sound.
- 3. **aureole:** a golden circle of light, usually around the head of a god or a saint.

What is this poem about?

What is the speaker's tone?

Explain your answer using textual evidence.

Name _____

Little Things

By Ebenezer Cobham Brewer

1. **eternity:** forever

Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean
And the pleasant land.

Thus the little minutes,
Humble though they be,
Make the mighty ages
Of eternity¹.

What is this poem about?

What is the speaker's tone?

Explain your answer using textual evidence.