

## Tone Worksheet 4

**Directions:** Read each poem and then answer the following questions.

### *from Songs of an Empty House*

By Marguerite Wilkinson

My father got me strong and straight and slim,  
And I give thanks to him;  
My mother bore me glad and sound and sweet, --  
I kiss her feet.

I have no son, whose life of flesh and fire  
Sprang from my splendid sire,  
No daughter for whose soul my mother's flesh  
Wrought raiment<sup>1</sup> fresh.

Life's venerable<sup>2</sup> rhythms like a flood  
Beat in my brain and blood,  
Crying from all the generations past,  
"Is this the last?"

And I make answer to my haughty<sup>3</sup> dead,  
Who made me, heart and head,  
"Even the sunbeams falter, flicker and bend --  
I am the end."

1. **raiment:** clothing or material
2. **venerable:** commanding respect because of age, character, or position.
3. **haughty:** expressing an attitude of superiority.

1. What is this poem about? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the speaker's tone? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your answer using textual evidence.

### **Prevision**

By Aline Kilmer

I know you are too dear to stay;  
You are so exquisitely sweet:  
My lonely house will thrill someday  
To echoes of your eager feet.

I hold your words within my heart,  
So few, so infinitely dear;  
Watching your fluttering hands I start  
At the corroding touch of fear.

A faint, unearthly music rings  
From you to Heaven -- it is not far!  
A mist about your beauty clings  
Like a thin cloud before a star.

My heart shall keep the child I knew,  
When you are really gone from me,  
And spend its life remembering you  
As shells remember the lost sea.

3. What is this poem about? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the speaker's tone? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your answer using textual evidence.

*from I Shall Not Die for Thee*

By Douglas Hyde

For thee, I shall not die,  
Woman of high fame and name;  
Foolish men thou mayest slay  
I and they are not the same.

Why should I expire  
For the fire of an eye,  
Slender waist or swan-like limb,  
Is't for them that I should die?

The golden hair, the forehead thin,  
The chaste<sup>1</sup> mien<sup>2</sup>, the gracious ease,  
The rounded heel, the languid<sup>3</sup> tone,--  
Fools alone find death from these.

Thy sharp wit, thy perfect calm,  
Thy thin palm like foam o' the sea;  
Thy white neck, thy blue eye,  
I shall not die for thee.

Woman, graceful as the swan,  
A wise man did nurture me.  
Little palm, white neck, bright eye,  
I shall not die for ye.

1. **chaste**: morally pure
2. **mien**: facial expression or attitude
3. **languid**: lacking enthusiasm

5. What is this poem about? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the speaker's tone? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your answer using textual evidence.

**"There will come Soft Rain"**

By Sara Teasdale

There will come soft rain and the smell of the ground,  
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night,  
And wild plum-trees in tremulous<sup>1</sup> white;

Robins will wear their feathery fire  
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire.

And not one will know of the war, not one  
Will care at last when it is done.

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,  
If mankind perished<sup>2</sup> utterly<sup>3</sup>.

And Spring herself when she woke at dawn,  
Would scarcely know that we were gone.

1. **tremulous**: trembling, quivering, or shaking
2. **perished**: died or expired
3. **utterly**: totally, completely

7. What is this poem about? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the speaker's tone? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain your answer using textual evidence.