

The Postmortal Textual Analysis and Compare/Contrast Assignment

Write a textual analysis comparing/contrasting *The Postmortal* with other literature or artwork about death and immortality. What parallels or differences do you see? How are these concepts addressed and portrayed in these texts? In what ways is death portrayed as something to be feared? Something to be overcome? Something to look forward to? In what ways is immortality something to be feared? Something to desire? Examples of texts to use for compare/contrast:

- [Dylan Thomas "Do not go gentle into that good night"](#)
- [Lisel Mueller "Immortality"](#)
- [Kay Ryan "The Edges of Time"](#)
- Jorge Luis Borges "The Immortal"
- Philip Larkin "Aubade"
- [Sylvia Plath "Lady Lazarus"](#)
- [Ted Kooser "Carrie"](#)
- [Christina Rossetti "Up-Hill"](#)
- [Emily Dickinson "Because I could not stop for Death"](#)
- Samuel Beckett [Krapp's Last Tape](#)

The following quotes may offer some inspiration for starting your analysis:

- "Oh how wrong we were to think immortality meant never dying." - Gerard Way
- "What you seek you shall never find.
For when the Gods made man,
They kept immortality to themselves.
Fill your belly.
Day and night make merry.
Let Days be full of joy.
Love the child who holds your hand.
Let your wife delight in your embrace.
For these alone are the concerns of man."
— *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
- "The best argument I know for an immortal life is the existence of a man who deserves one." - William James
- "Higher than the question of our duration is the question of our deserving. Immortality will come to such as are fit for it, and he would be a great soul in future must be a great soul now." - Ralph Waldo Emerson
- "To desire immortality is to desire the eternal perpetuation of a great mistake" – Arthur Schopenhauer
- "To be immortal is commonplace; except for man, all creatures are immortal, for they are ignorant of death; what is divine, terrible, incomprehensible, is to know that one is immortal." – Jorge Luis Borges
- "Millions long for immortality who do not know what to do with themselves on a rainy Sunday afternoon." – Susan Ertz