

A Poison Tree

by William Blake

I was angry with my friend:
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe;
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I water'd it in fears,
Night & morning with my tears;
And I sunned it with my smiles
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night,
Till it bore an apple bright;
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine,

And into my garden stole
When the night had veil'd the pole:
In the morning glad I see
My foe outstretch'd beneath the tree



Name _____

Period _____

Ms. Carota/English 12

"A Poison Tree"

William Blake

What is the *difference* in how the speaker deals with his/her anger between the friend and the foe? Be sure to cite specific evidence from the poem in your response.

2. Explain how the poem's speaker maintains and even increases his/her anger towards the foe. Be sure to cite specific evidence from the poem in your response.

3. Poets often use figurative language to convey ideas. What literary devices are being implemented by the poet in his discussion of the tree and in his discussion of the apple?

4. Identify the theme of the poem and provide details that support your claim.

5. Find the Biblical allusion and explain how it supports the theme.