

## DYLAN THOMAS' DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THAT GOODNIGHT: POEM ANALYSIS

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### ABSTRACT

This article undertakes a poetic analysis of "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night" by Dylan Thomas. In a nutshell, the poem is about a father advising his son on death. It talks about Thomas' life story and the poetry to help the reader grasp both. In "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night," a poem by Dylan Thomas, themes of defiance, aging, and death are explored. His choice of language, imagery, and grammar reflects themes of defiance and revolt while also conveying strength and resolve in the face of challenges. It may therefore be the work of modern art with the greatest level of recognition. With the exception of the last stanza, each stanza's first and third lines are repeated as the final lines of the subsequent stanzas. This poem follows a formal format. This essay analyses the stylistically erroneous use of tenderness. Readers will be able to comprehend and appreciate this poem and poetry in general because the basic elements of poetry are discussed.

**Keywords:** Phonology, Poem analysis, Semantics, Textual analysis

### DYLAN THOMAS' BIOGRAPHY

Welsh poet, writer, and journalist Dylan Thomas is known for his innovative use of language and his numerous radio broadcasts, which he continued to do even when on tour. His best-known compositions are "And death shall have no dominion," "Do not go gently into that good night," "A Child's Christmas in Wales," and "Under Milk Wood." He developed pneumonia, and at the age of 39 he passed away.

In Swansea, South Wales, on October 27, 1914, Dylan Marlais Thomas was born. Shakespeare and other romantic poets like Gerard Manley Hopkins, W. B. Yeats, and Edgar Allan Poe were

frequently repeated by his father, a grammar school professor of English literature, and he instilled in his son a love of their rhythmic ballads.

## 2. Do not go Gentle into that Goodnight: A Brief Discussion

Dylan Thomas wrote a poem called "Do not go gently into that good night" that is about dying. The poem's speaker is mourning the loss of his father, which causes him to reflect on the impending death of himself. In the end, he understands that while death cannot be avoided, it can be fought. He means that accepting death passively is a dishonourable response when he urges readers to "rage against the dying of the light" and not "walk gently into that good night." Instead, he contends that when death comes, it is heroic to resist it with all of your strength. This response is brave and human, in Thomas' opinion.

Dylan Thomas argues in his poem "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" that those who are dying should have the courage to confront death and embrace life, just like warriors did in ancient eras. The poet argues that this is the ideal method for someone who is about to die since it gives them the chance to do an act of bravery in their final moments. This poem acknowledges that fighting death does not result in victory over it, even while it does not address how one might escape dying or even living eternally. In reality, fighting against death does not guarantee that one will live to see another day; instead, it teaches one to accept a natural occurrence as inevitable.

### Poetic Theme of "DO NOT GO GENTLE INTO THAT GOODNIGHT"

The poem "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" by Dylan Thomas explores themes of defiance, aging, and death. The poem's speaker is adamantly opposed to the universe's inherent order. In contrast to being accepted and considered as an unavoidable part of existence, he portrays death as a force that must be opposed. His use of words, imagery, and grammar, which conveys strength and resolve over all difficulties, are reflective of the themes of defiance and rebellion. The poet admits the universality and impossibility of death, but he also acknowledges its finality.

## 3. Poem Analysis of the Poem

### 3.1 Phonological Level

**Alliteration:** It is the repetition of the initial consonant cluster in stressed syllables.

Line 1: "Do not go gentle into that good night" The repetition of the words "go, good" in the first line of the poem, gives great emphasis to these words. The symbol of night and the adjective "good" together create a slightly positive image in this poem. The word night is often associated with darkness, evil, and death, but the poet uses this word here to suggest something else—a gentle process of change.

Line 13: "Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight"

Line 14: "Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,"

The repetition of sounds in these lines reflects the meaning of the poem. The alliteration emphasizes a contrast: although grave men are losing their ability to see, they still use what they have left to rage against death.

**Consonance:** It refers to the repetition of the final consonant cluster in stressed syllables.

The sound of /s/ in:

Line 17: "Curse, bless me now with your fierce tears, I pray." In the quatrain "Curse, bless me now with your fierce tears, I pray." The repetition of /s/ sounds unites keywords and reinforces the mood of the speaker in his plea to his dying father.

The sound of /g/ in:

Line 1: "Do not go gentle into that good night,"

Line 2: "Old age should burn and rave at close of day;"

The sound of /t/ in:

Line 1: "Do not go gentle into that good night,"

Line 2: "Old age should burn and rave at close of day;"

**Assonance:** It refers to the repetition of a vowel sound in a line of text, but different consonants begin each word.

"Do not go gentle into that good night, Old age should burn and rave at close of day; Rage, rage, against the dying of the light. / . . . Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight/ Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay, Rage, rage against the dying of the light."

The author uses both the long "a" sound and the long "i" sound in his work, as well as frequently repeating certain words.

**Rhyme:** The poem's structure is formal, alternating the first and third lines of each stanza as the last lines of the remaining stanzas, except for the last one, which uses both lines together as a rhyming couplet. The middle lines also rhyme with each other. The poem's rhyme scheme is ABA, ABA, ABA and ABAA.

### 3.2 Semantic Level

#### Metaphor

"Do not go gentle into that good night,"

"Rage, rage against the dying of the light,"

The speaker in Dylan Thomas's poem uses nighttime as a metaphor for death and bemoans his father's willingness to accept it. He urges his father to "Rage, rage against the dying of the light," i.e., the onset of darkness or night, which is used here as a symbol for death.

#### Simile

"Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay".

The poet uses a simile in line 5 of the fifth tercet, stating that "blind eyes could shine like meteors and be gay."

#### Imagery

The poem relies on intense and puzzling imagery,

Lines 4-6: a lightning bolt that isn't forked or split by the words of wise men.

The poet employs various images of light and fire in this poem about living with intensity. The images include bolts of lightning, blazing meteors, and other symbols of light and fire.

"Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright / Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay." "Wise men at their end know dark is right / Because their words had forked no lightning."

Imagery in Dylan Thomas's poem "Do not Go Gentle into that Good Night" can be found in the second and third verses. In this poem, "wise men at their end know dark is right / Because their



words had forked no lightening." and "Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright /Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay" express the rage against death and darkness.

### **Oxymoron**

An oxymoron is a paradox in which two terms of ordinary usage are contraries and conjoined.

“And you, my father, there on the sad height,

Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.

Do not go gentle into that good night.

Rage, rage against the dying of the light.”

The oxymoron “curse, bless” occurs in the poem. The poet asks his father not only to curse him but also to bless him. The first stanza of the poem states that dying men are still able to see, but they see in a different way: they “see” with their wisdom rather than with their eyes.

### **CONCLUSION**

In order to study figurative elements and their use in art, this article studies Dylan Thomas' poem "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night." The literary work is one of Thomas's best-known creations and has been hailed as one of the most well-known examples of poetry from the 20th century. As a result, it might be the most well-known piece of contemporary art. The first and third lines of each stanza are repeated as the last lines of the following stanzas, with the exception of the final one. This poem has a formal structure. The repetition and various devices add to its distinctive artistic qualities.

The imagery in this poem is primarily visual. The poet depicts the attitudes of smart and virtuous persons toward death when they are confronted with it using the images of "lightning" and "wave." The poem makes use of a number of symbols, including "night," "light," and "sad height." The poem is structured as a villanelle, a nineteen-line literary form with two recurring refrains. The poem uses consonance and alliteration to emphasize certain words, such as the usage of "long" vowels to convey emotion. This paper analyzes the deviant usage of gentleness from a stylistic perspective. The fundamental components of poetry are covered, which help readers understand and appreciate this poem and poetry in general. Additionally, this essay offers some specific views for interpreting poetry and aids readers in understanding poetry more broadly.

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