

Brenden Jeon

Cirrus Testing Course 2018

Exemplar Text Annotation Assignment

Due Date : 31 Dec 2018 24:00

This is a test example of the textual annotation exercises on Cirrus. Annotations are set without word limits for this exercise, but you can limit the length of annotations. The exercise is individual (only the student and course staff can see the students' annotations), not collaborative (everyone in the group...

My Last Duchess

That's ^{1s} my last Duchess ^{1e} painted on the wall,
Looking as if she were alive. I call
That piece a wonder, now; ^{2s} Fra Pandolf's ^{2e} hands
Worked busily a day, and there she stands.
Will't please you sit and look at her? I said
"Fra Pandolf" by design, for never read
Strangers like you that pictured countenance,
The depth and passion of its earnest glance,
But to myself they turned ^{3s} (since none puts by
The curtain I have drawn for you, but I) ^{3e}
And seemed as they would ask me, if they durst,
How such a glance came there; so, not the first
Are you to turn and ask thus. ^{4s} Sir, 'twas not
Her husband's presence only, called that spot
Of joy into the Duchess' cheek; ^{4e} perhaps
Fra Pandolf chanced to say, "Her mantle laps
Over my lady's wrist too much," or "Paint
Must never hope to reproduce the faint
Half-flush that dies along her throat." Such stuff
Was courtesy, she thought, and cause enough
For calling up that spot of joy. She had
A heart—how shall I say?— too soon made glad,
Too easily impressed; she liked whate'er
She looked on, and her looks went everywhere.

Sir, 'twas all one! My favour at her breast,
^{5s}The dropping of the daylight in the West, ^{5e}
 The bough of cherries some officious fool
 Broke in the orchard for her, the white mule
 She rode with round the terrace—all and each
 Would draw from her alike the approving speech,
 Or blush, at least. She thanked men—good! but thanked
^{6s}Somehow—I know not how—as ^{6e}if she ranked
 My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name
 With anybody's gift. Who'd stoop to blame
 This sort of trifling? Even had you skill
 In speech—which I have not—to make your will
 Quite clear to such an one, and say, "Just this
 Or that in you disgusts me; here you miss,
 Or there exceed the ^{7s}mark"—and if she let
 Herself be lessoned so, nor plainly set
 Her wits to yours, forsooth, and made excuse—
 E'en then would be some stooping; ^{7e}and I choose
 Never to stoop. Oh, sir, she smiled, no doubt,
 Whene'er I passed her; but who passed without
 Much the same smile? This grew; I gave commands;
 Then all smiles stopped together. There she stands
 As if alive. Will't please you rise? We'll meet
 The company below, then. I repeat,
^{8s}The Count your master's known munificence
 Is ample warrant that no just pretense
 Of mine for dowry will be disallowed;
 Though his fair daughter's self, as I avowed
 At starting, is my object. ^{8e}Nay, we'll go
 Together down, sir. Notice Neptune, though,
 Taming a sea-horse, thought a rarity,
 Which ^{9s}Claus of Innsbruck ^{9e}cast in bronze for me!

1. Brenden Jeon

Sometimes identified as Lucrezia de' Medici, Duchess of Ferrara, daughter of Cosimo de' Medici, who died

of tuberculosis in 1561. Her portrait has a particular melancholy, which may have suggested either the poem or the later identification.



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2. Brenden Jeon

Like Claus of Innsbruck (see annotation below), Fra Pandolf is a fictional painter.

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3. Brenden Jeon

The speaker's jealousy is immediately apparent: the curtain represents his utter control over the duchess now she is in the form of a portrait and not a living woman.

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4. Brenden Jeon

The speaker is unable to control his jealousy that the duchess is not entirely concerned with him, but finds pleasures outside his company.

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5. Brenden Jeon

That the speaker is even jealous of her pleasure in the sunset indicates that the duchess could have done nothing to ameliorate this jealousy: it is extreme.

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6. Brenden Jeon

The speaker, despite his now absolute control over the duchess, is still unable to explain or understand why she was not of his mind.

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7. Brenden Jeon

The speaker expects the duchess to anticipate his wants and his displeasure: he is unwilling to even mention his displeasure.

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8. Brenden Jeon

That this conversation takes place during marriage negotiations throws the speaker's jealousy into sharp relief: even while negotiating for another marriage, he is unable to disguise his jealousy or the steps he takes to ameliorate it.

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9. Brenden Jeon

Claus of Innsbruck is a fictional sculptor, but the sculpture is likely along these lines, with an emphasis on strength and brutality.



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