



Reading Delia: Sonnet 1

Student Name _____ Date _____

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the following sonnet and respond to the questions below. Note that the sonnet is written in Early Modern English, so some words may look odd to you. With a little effort, you should be able to discern the meaning (hint: sometimes “v” replaces “u,” or vice-versa, as in “Vnto” or “reueale”). Use the space between lines to annotate unclear passages.

Delia. Contayning certayne Sonnets: vvith the complaint of Rosamond.

by Samuel Daniel

TO DELIA

Sonnet I.

Vnto the boundles Ocean of thy beautie

Runs this poore riuer, charg'd with streames of zeale:

Returning thee the tribute of my dutie,

Which heere my loue, my youth, my playnts reueale.

Heere I vnclaspe the booke of my charg'd soule,

Where I have cast th'accounts of all my care:

Heere have I summ'd my sighes, heere I enroule

Howe they were spent for thee; Looke what they are.

Looke on the deere expences of my youth,

And see how iust I reckon with thyne eyes:

Examine well thy beautie with my trueth,

And crosse my cares ere greater summes arise.

Reade it sweet maide, though it be doone but slightly;

Who can shewe all his loue, doth loue but lightly.

1. Write the rhyme scheme of the sonnet below or next to the lines in the poem above.
2. Which sonnet form does this rhyme scheme more closely resemble? What might the rhyme scheme indicate about the organization of the content of the sonnet?
3. Identify and explain the metaphor in the first line that Daniel uses to characterize Delia's beauty.
4. How do the metaphors in the next three lines extend the opening metaphor into a conceit? Be sure to explain the other metaphors as they relate to the one in the first line.
5. In the next eight lines, Daniel develops an even more elaborate conceit built upon the *business ledger*. Explain the metaphor associated with this ledger and how Daniel extends this metaphor into a conceit in the subsequent lines. What other metaphors does he use and what do they compare?
6. The last two lines usually comment on the rest of the sonnet, making the sonnet's point clear. What do these lines say is the point that the speaker of the sonnet is trying to make? How does that point apply to the rest of the sonnet and the conceits used?
7. The name "Delia" is an anagram for another word that helps to explain the speaker's attitude toward the woman to whom he speaks. Decipher the anagram and explain how the new word applies to her.