

WS\_3

***Please turn in this assignment at the beginning of class on Thursday, January 24 for credit.***

1. Turn to p. 1122 and read from the beginning of the first full paragraph to the end of the section on p. 1123.
2. Turn to p. 1124: Pope's "An Essay on Criticism." Choose two consecutive heroic couplets for metrical analysis. (Hint: heroic couplets consist of two rhymed lines in iambic pentameter.)

Line #'s \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

- a) Transcribe those four lines below and mark the meter above each syllable.

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

- b) Straighten out any hyperbaton and paraphrase the same four lines here. (Hint: Hyperbaton is an inversion of the normal order of words.)

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

- c) Write your own heroic couplet and parse the meter.

i.

3. Which of Pope's accomplishments as an author and translator might have uniquely prepared him to write mock epic? **(Answer in one sentence.)**
  
4. How does the biography to Pope in your *NAEL* describe *Rape of the Lock*? **(Answer in one sentence.)**
  
5. Briefly summarize the public career of Alexander Pope.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. Based on the definition of satire in the *Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* (which you can find online at <http://www.boydwick.com>), explain where the satire of Pope fits in to the history of the genre.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7. Answer one of the discussion questions below for *Essay on Criticism*.

Discussion questions for *Essay on Criticism*

1. Pope seems to be as much concerned with the moral qualities of the critic as his literary qualifications. Why? To what extent might these be connected?
2. What is Pope's attitude toward "the rules" in this poem? What is his attitude toward originality?
3. What role does Nature play in the work of great writers like Homer? What role should it play for critics?
4. Whom does Pope include in his catalogue of great writers and critics? What is the significance of this list?
5. What are the primary aesthetic values expressed in this piece?
6. How do Pope's couplets complement the aesthetic ideas expressed?
7. Evaluate the poet's self-reference in the closing lines of the poem. What purpose does it serve?