

## PRÁCTICA 2. SIR THOMAS WYATT (1503-1542)

### 2.1. *They flee from me*

They <i>flee</i> from me that sometime did me seek With naked foot, <i>stalking</i> in my chamber. I have seen them gentle, tame, and <i>meeke</i> , That now are wild and do not remember	<i>escape, run away</i> <i>walking softly</i> <i>humble, submissive</i>
5 That sometime they put themselves in danger To take bread at my hand; and now they <i>range</i> , Busily seeking with a continual change.	<i>To change from one</i> <i>attachment to</i> <i>another; to be</i> <i>inconstant.</i>

### QUESTIONS

1. Who is speaking?
2. Is the *I voice* a man or a woman?
3. What is his mood? Is he happy? Sad? Pensive? What do you think he's feeling?
4. What kind of feelings is he describing?
5. What is the background of the story?
6. What happened before?
7. What's the situation now?
8. Where is it this story taking place?
9. Who is the *I voice* addressing his complains to?
10. Is there something in his description that caught your attention? What? And why?

Thanked be fortune it hath been otherwise  
Twenty times better; but once in special,  
10 In thin array after a pleasant *guise*,  
When her loose gown from her shoulders did fall,  
And she me caught in her arms long and *small*;  
*Therewithall* sweetly did me kiss  
And softly said, "Dear heart, how like you this?"

*Style, fashion of attire*

*slender  
with that*

## QUESTIONS

1. When are these events taking place?
2. Where is this situation located?
3. Can you imagine the setting?
4. What is the role of the *I voice* here? Has it changed from the first stanza? In what ways?
5. What about the role of the Lady? Has it changed?
6. Is there something that strikes you of her behaviour? Is it conventional or unexpected?
7. Is there something in this description that caught your attention? What? And why?
8. What do you think it's going to happen next? What is it going to be the conclusion?

15	It was no dream: I lay broad waking. But all is turned <i>thorough</i> my gentleness Into a strange fashion of <i>forsaking</i> ;  And I have leave to go of her goodness, And she also, to use <i>newfangleness</i> . But since that I so kindly am served	<i>through</i> <i>To deny, renounce, or</i> <i>repudiate</i>  <i>Falseness, deceit,</i> <i>changeableness, inconstancy</i> <i>to desire, wish.</i>
20	I would <i>fain</i> know what she hath deserved.	

## QUESTIONS

1. What happened in the end?
2. How is he coping with it?
3. What is the mood of the I voice? How do you know? How is he conveying it?
4. What does his reaction make you think of him?
5. What do you think of the Lady?
6. What does 'kindly' mean in line ? What are its possible meanings? Do they tell you something more of the I voice?
7. Whom do you side with?
8. Do you think this could possibly happen today?
9. How would you sum up the story of this poem?
10. What are its main themes?
11. Did you like the poem? Why?

**GAWIN EWART (1916-1995)**

***“They flee from me that sometime did me seek”***

At this moment in time  
The chicks that went for me  
In a big way  
Are opting out;  
As of now, it's an all change situation.  
The scenario was once,  
For me, 100% better.  
Kissing her was viable  
In a nude or semi-nude situation.  
It was *How's about it, baby?*  
Her embraces were relevant  
And life-enhancing.  
I was not hallucinating.  
But with regard to that one  
My permissiveness  
Has landed me in a forsaking situation.  
The affair is no longer on-going.  
She can, as of now, explore new parameters-  
*How's about it?* Indeed!  
I feel emotionally underprivileged.  
What a bitch!  
(and that's meaningful!)

**2.2.** Compare this modern rendition of *They flee from me* with the original poem by Sir Thomas Wyatt.

- Which one do you like best? Why?
- Which is easier to read/understand?
- Is there vocabulary you don't understand in the modern poem?
- If you had to write a commentary, which of the poems would you choose? Why?
- Which is more poetical to you? Why?
- Can you identify rhetorical features in the modern poem?

## SIR THOMAS WYATT (1503-1542)

### 2.3. *I find no peace*

I find no peace, and all my war is done.  
I fear and hope. I burn and freeze like ice.  
I fly aloft, yet can I not arise;  
And nought I have, and all the world I seize on,  
That locks nor loseth, holdeth me in prison,  
And holds me not, yet can I scape no wise:  
Nor lets me live, nor die, at my devise,  
And yet of death it giveth me occasion.  
Without eye I see; without tongue I plain:  
I wish to perish, yet I ask for health;  
I love another, and thus I hate myself ;  
I feed me in sorrow, and laugh in all my pain.  
Lo, thus displeaseth me both death and life,  
And my delight is causer of this strife.

### QUESTIONS

1. Who is the I voice of this poem? What is his profession?
2. Who is the addressee?
3. What is this poem about?
4. What is the mood of the I voice?
5. What are the most relevant rhetorical features used in the poem?
6. What kind of imagery is used throughout the poem?

## SIR THOMAS WYATT (1503-1542)

### 2.4. *Whoso list to hunt*

Whoso list to hunt, I know where is an hind,  
But as for me, alas, I may no more.  
The vain travail hath wearied me so sore,  
I am of them that furthest come behind.  
5 Yet may I, by no means, my wearied mind  
Draw from the deer; but as she fleeth afore,  
Fainting I follow. I leave off, therefore,  
Since in a net I seek to hold the wind.  
Who list her hunt, I put him out of doubt,  
10 As well as I, may spend his time in vain.  
And graven in diamonds in letters plain  
There is written, her fair neck round about,  
*"Noli me tangere, for Caesar's I am,*  
And wild to hold, though I seem tame."

### QUESTIONS

1. Who is the I voice of this poem? What is his role?
2. Who are the other participants appearing in this poem? How are they characterized?
3. Who is/are the addressee?
4. What is this poem about?
5. What is the mood of the I voice?
6. What rhetorical devices is the poet using? Select five and comment on them.
7. What is the setting/imagery used?