

- **Opening Statement:**

- Death is fact of life, unavoidable
- Death hits hard (Grandparents, parents, friends)
 - Lots of ways to grieve (therapy/counseling, crying it out, write)

- **Introduction to *In Memoriam***

- Title, Author, published in 1849
- 133 Cantos, ups-downs of recovery after the loss of Tennyson's (best friend) Arthur Henry Hallam
 - According to Peter Lengyel, author of "In Memoriam: Historical Analysis," published in 2014, this collection of poetry was Tennyson's "coping and grieving [mechanism for] his friend's death"
 - Why he write so much?
 - Losing friend is hard -> not just any friend
 - According to Holly Furneaux, author of "An Introduction to In Memoriam A.H.H.," published in 2014, Hallam was Tennyson's "closest friend" who died "at age 22"
 - If losing friend = hard.... Best, Young friend? (Prime)
 - According to the 2014 article "Tennyson Wrote 'Tis Better to Have Loved and Lost," "The two met at Trinity College, Cambridge in 1829, and they shared a love of poetry. ...[not to mention] Hallam [later] fell in love with Tennyson's younger sister, 18-year-old Emily."
 - Close friends was one thing.... Like brothers
 - No wonder devastated
 - What is *In Memoriam*?
 - According to Holly Furneaux, author of "An Introduction to In Memoriam A.H.H.," published in 2014, "In Memoriam A.H.H. is the extended, fragmentary elegy that Tennyson wrote for his closest friend ... after Hallam's sudden death"
 - Tennyson's grief coping

- According to the 2014 article “Tennyson Wrote ‘Tis Better to Have Loved and Lost,” “Over the next 17 years, Tennyson worked on his epic poem which [as aforementioned] contains 133 cantos [that] reflects on the sadness and emptiness that happens when someone unexpectedly vanishes from your life.”
 - Book of death poetry inspirational?
 - Through this -> 5 stages of grief (denial, bargaining, depression, anger, acceptance) faces entire world view and faith being shaken ... loss... Best friend, Hallam
 - He comes out!
- *In Memoriam*
 - Recovery is not linear.... Bounces around, Tennyson’s poetry shows
 - 5 stages.. Important to remember that everyone is different.. Everyone goes through it differently
 - Tennyson does not go through the 5 stages in any order... just showing the stages in his work not necessarily as they appear
- Denial -> what is it?
 - Hard to accept
 - “I wrong the grave with fears untrue/ Shall love be blamed for want of faith/ There must be wisdom with great Death/ The dead shall look me thro’ and thro’” (Canto 51)
 - “So runs my dream: but what am I?/ An infant crying in the night/ An infant crying for the light/ And with no language but a cry” (Canto 52)
 - What does this show?
 - Tennyson didn’t know how to cope ... loss best friend hoped brother-in-law
- Bargaining -> what is it?

- Tennyson not directly face bargaining... faith distorted.... His bargaining form of adjusting his world view to understand why friend died
 - According to Allen Macduffie, author of the 2018 article “Charles Darwin and the Victorian Pre-History of Climate Denial” published in Victorian Studies, “[Hallam’s death] delivered a fatal blow to [Tennyson’s view of] the human image, which then demanded its own forms of consolation and mourning.”
 - See this:
 - “One writes, that ‘Other friends remain,’/That ‘Loss is common to the race’” (Canto 6)
 - “Be near me when my faith is dry” (Canto 50)
- What does this show?
 - It shows how difficult loss can be ... people like having a rhythm, they would trade to have that rhythm back
- Depression -> what is it?
 - It is not a stable depression... it comes and it goes... flexible... there are also different types of depression
 - Some depression is hopeless... early depression intense
 - “O what to her shall be the end?/And what to me remains of good?” (Canto 6)
 - “And darkening the dark graves of men,—/What whisper’d from her lying lips?/Thy gloom is kindled at the tips/And passes into gloom again.” (Canto 39)
 - Some depression leaves you feeling empty and alone.. Not as intense as time passees but still sad
 - “An inner trouble I behold” (Canto 41)

- “Ay me, the sorrow deepens down/Whose muffled motions
blindly drown/The bases of my life in tears.” (Canto 49)
- “In those sad words I took farewell:/Like echoes in
sepulchral halls” (Canto 58)
- What does this show?
 - Big surprise, you sad
 - Tennyson sad lose his best friend
 - Hard change
- Anger -> what is it?
 - Some anger aggressive
 - “Or crush her, like a vice of blood” (Canto 3)
 - “I envy not in any moods/The captive void of noble rage”
(Canto 27)
 - “How dare we keep our Christmas-eve” (Canto 29)
 - Some anger why bother
 - “Old sisters of a day gone by/Gray nurses, loving nothing
new/Why should they miss their yearly due/Before their
time? They too will die.” (Canto 29)
 - “What then were God to such as I?” (Canto 34)
 - What does this show?
 - Much like denial, it’s hard to figure out how to move on
after death, and sometimes that confusion comes out in
sports at anger toward the word, other people, in
Tennyson’s case God
- Acceptance -> what is it?
 - There reaches a point in the poems where the writing feels
peaceful (Canto 82 start seeing it.... Canto 113 very much there)
 - “A hundred spirits whisper `Peace.’” (Canto 86)

- Epilogue is about feeling peace... true acceptance (it happened and no change)... growth past it
 - “Regret is dead, but love is more/ Than in the summers that are flown,/For I myself with these have grown/To something greater than before” (Epilogue)
- Epilogue is also about moving on... acceptance is about moving on
 - “Now waiting to be made a wife ... Breathed in her ear. The ring is on,/The `wilt thou' answer'd, and again/The `wilt thou' ask'd, till out of twain/Her sweet `I will' has made you one.” (Epilogue)
- What does this all show?
 - The more time that passes, the easier the pain feels
 - Some days you feel better than others
 - One day you will overcome like Tennyson
- **Conclusion**
 - What mean?
 - According to Joan Beder, author of the 2005 article “Loss of the Assumptive World—How We Deal with Death and Loss.” from the Journal of Death and Dying, “In the midst of the darkest times, we tend to lose hope and anticipate that the darkness of the moment will become the only reality”
 - IT WONT
 - Everybody experiences pain
 - Everyone experiences differently, not alone
 - Ways to feel better
 - Tennyson used poetry -> help grief
 - There are ways to deal with yours
 - *In Memoriam* shows Tennyson as he moved back and forth among the 5 stages of grief

- He reached the end eventually
- Okay feel pain,light at the end
 - Tennyson, you reach it... get better
- Earlier... death is a fact of life... no control you
 - After all, as Tennyson himself stated in Canto 27, “Tis better to have loved and lost/Than never to have loved at all.”