**INFO SHEET #2: FORMALIST APPROACH**

**Competency**

**MELC:** ***EN10WC-IIIg-14-*** *Compose an independent critique of a chosen selection.*

**Objectives**

After the end of the lesson, the learners are expected to:

1. identify the distinct features of Formalist Approach;
2. apply Formalist Approach in studying a literary piece; and
3. compose an independent critique of a chosen selection.

**Key Information**

**Formalist Approach** mainly deals with the structure of a particular text and how one part of the work relates to other parts and to the whole. It pays more attention to intrinsic features like grammar, syntax, structure, and literary devices. It also examines the genre, mode, form and discourse while rejecting bibliographical, cultural, historical and social contexts. It only analyzes one particular literary work at a time; it is not compared or contrasted with another work.

To use this approach, you may ask:

• How is the work’s structure unified?

• How do various elements of the work reinforce its meaning?

• What recurring patterns (repeated or related words, images, etc.) can you find? What is its effect

• How does repetition reinforce the theme(s)?

• How does the writer’s diction reveal or reflect the work’s meaning?

• What is the effect of the plot, and what parts specifically produce that effect?

• What figures of speech are used? (metaphors, similes, hyperbole, personification, etc.)

• How does the writer use paradox, irony, symbol, plot, characterization, and style to enhance the story? • What effects are produced? Do any of these relate to one another or to the theme?

• Is there a relationship between the beginning and the end of the story?

• What tone and mood are created at various parts of the work?

• How does the author create tone and mood?

• What relationship is there between tone and mood and the effect of the story?

• How do the various elements interact to create a unified whole?

**Directions:** Read the poem and answer the questions that follow. Write the letter of your answer before each number.

**Sonnet 127**

William Shakespeare

In the old age black was not counted fair,

Or if it were, it bore not beauty's name;

But now is black beauty's successive heir,

And beauty slandered with a bastard shame:

For since each hand hath put on Nature's power,

Fairing the foul with Art's false borrowed face,

Sweet beauty hath no name, no holy bower,

But is profaned, if not lives in disgrace.

Therefore my mistress' eyes are raven black,

Her eyes so suited, and they mourners seem

At such who, not born fair, no beauty lack,

Sland'ring creation with a false esteem:

Yet so they mourn becoming of their woe,

That every tongue says beauty should look so.

1. How many lines does a sonnet have?

a. 10 b. 12 c. 13 d. 14

2. What is the sonnet talking about?

a. that black is not beautiful color c. how black was not considered beautiful in the past

b. that black is synonymous to darkness of soul d. how black people are discriminated before

3. Who was chosen by the speaker of the poem to be his ‘mistress’?

a. a woman with black eyes who looks sad and lonely

b. a woman with black eyes the way true beauty should look

c. a woman with black eyes who likes to wear cosmetics to be beautiful

d. a woman with black eyes but with fair skin and does not wear makeup

4. What does the line, “But now is black beauty's successive heir" suggest ?

a. Today, black is considered beautiful. c. Black people give birth to black children.

b. Today, black remains the color of slavery. d. Those who are not black are not beautiful.

5. What does the line, "Fairing the foul with art's false borrowed face" mean?

a. beauty is slandered by putting on makeup

b. beauty is emphasized by putting on makeup

c. beautiful people do not need to wear makeup at all

d. black needs be covered by makeup to become beautiful