



DC English IV

World/British Literature

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Devotional Writing

Psalm

- Although these are a major part of the Judeo-Christian celebration of God, other cultures developed their own versions as well.
- These are considered musical poems, but remember: emphasis is placed on the words; musical arrangements are secondary.
- There are many different genres of this type of writing.

The three main type of psalms:

Hymn: Song of praise to God

Lament: Song expressing a weariness, sadness to God or complaints about one's foes

Thanksgiving: Song of thanks from an individual, or from a community; in particular these address God for having made a change or repair



Devotional Writing

Prayer, Meditation, and Chant

- By definition, a **psalm** can be considered a **prayer**, but not all prayers are psalms.
- A **prayer** serves as a communicative bond to a deity, spirit, or an ancestor.
- Likewise, psalms serve as a type of **meditation** as well. Almost all of the major religions use sacred devices for meditation, in particular, Buddhist and Catholic traditions use strung beads as a form of tracking incantations, devotions, or religious rituals.
- **Meditation** acts as a training of the mind towards calmness. Various people use this technique to find awareness of the Divine, a connection with a holy figure.
- **Chants and Prayers** are often used for meditation in order to break away from the sense of the material Self and to find an association with the inner Soul or an enlightened consciousness.



Devotional Writing

Ode

- An ode is a lyrical poem, intended to be sung.
 - Usually these a verses are dedicated to celebrate a deity, a person (living or dead), an event, or even an object.
 - Lines are often staggered in a seemingly haphazard fashion, based on complex meters or syllable counts.
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- Greek: Pindar *Victory Odes of Pindar*
 - Roman: Horace *Odes of Horace*
 - British: John Keats “Ode on a Grecian Urn”
 - Chilean: Pablo Neruda “Ode to Tomatoes”
 - American: Lynda Hull “Ornithology”