

Name: _____ Class: _____

Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night

By Dylan Thomas
From The Poems Of Dylan Thomas • 1952

Dylan Thomas (1914-1953) was a Welsh poet popular during his own time; his use of imagery and rhythm made his poetry widely accessible. It has been suggested that "Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night," one of his more famous poems, was inspired by Thomas's own dying father. As you read, take notes on how the author's use of symbolism, tone, and repetition contribute to the message of this poem.

[1] Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,
[5] Because their words had forked no lightning they
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green
bay,
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.



"Dylan Thomas' Boat House" is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

[10] Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight,
And learn, too late, they grieve it on its way,
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,

[15] Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

And you, my father, there on the sad height,
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.
Do not go gentle into that good night.
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

"Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night" from The Poems of Dylan Thomas, © 1952, New Directions Publishing Corp.. Reprinted with permission, all rights reserved.