


## Module 7: Balancing the Individual and Society

### Topic 4 Content: "Pied Beauty" Analysis

#### Introduction



Reading 1                      Reading 2                      Reading 3

In this interactivity, you will read the poem "Pied Beauty" by Gerard Manley Hopkins three times. The first time, you will focus on structure and poetical devices. In the second read, you will focus on interpreting the poem. Finally, you will read the poem a third time to fully appreciate its quality.

**Pied Beauty**

Click *NEXT* to begin.

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#### "Pied Beauty" by Gerard Manley Hopkins


Glory be to God for dappled things—  
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;  
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;  
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;  
Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;  
And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;  
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)  
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;  
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:  
Praise him.

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#### Reading 1

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p>While you were reading the poem for the first time, how much vocabulary did you find unfamiliar? Take a moment now to review some of the more uncommon words that Hopkins used in his sonnet. Click each of the highlighted terms to learn more about their meanings. Then, click <b>NEXT</b> to continue.</p>	<p>Glory be to God for <b>dappled</b> things— For skies of couple-colour as a <b>brinded</b> cow; For rose-moles all in <b>stipple</b> upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—<b>fold</b>, <b>fallow</b>, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is <b>fickle</b>, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; <b>adazzle</b>, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	

While you were reading the poem for the first time, how much vocabulary did you find unfamiliar? Take a moment now to review some of the more uncommon words that Hopkins used in his sonnet. Click each of the highlighted terms to learn more about their meanings. Then, click **NEXT** to continue.

dappled: *Dappled* means mottled, or marked with spots of different color, tone, or light.

brinded: *Brinded* means marked with dark spots or streaks against a gray or light brown.

stipple: *Stipple* is a style of painting, drawing, or engraving made up of dots.

fold: A *fold* is a pen for animals.

fallow: A *fallow* is plowed land that is left uncultivated, or unseeded.


fickle: *Fickle* means likely to change, especially erratically.

adazzle: *Adazzle* means dazzling or brightly glittering.

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#### Reading 1

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p><b>What is the tone of the poem? Consider the word choice used in the beginning and end of the poem. Select the appropriate answer to the question above.</b></p> <p>It has a violent tone.</p> <p>It has a religious tone.</p> <p>It has a sad tone.</p> <p>It has a fearful tone.</p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	

What is the tone of the poem? Consider the word choice used in the beginning and end of the poem. Select the appropriate answer to the question above.

- It has a violent tone.
- It has a religious tone.
- It has a sad tone.
- It has a fearful tone.


This poem has a religious tone, which can be seen in the opening lines. "Glory be to God" and "Praise him" are religious, liturgical expressions. You know that Hopkins was a Jesuit priest, so the religious tone may not come as a surprise.

Throughout the first stanza, the speaker mentions "dappled things," or items that are speckled with color. What are those things?

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#### Reading 1

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p><b>Who might the speaker of the poem be? After considering this question, select the appropriate answer below.</b></p> <p>The speaker is God.</p> <p>The speaker is a person who doubts God.</p> <p>The speaker is a religious person.</p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	

Who might the speaker of the poem be? After considering this question, select the appropriate answer below.

- The speaker is God.
- The speaker is a person who doubts God.
- The speaker is a religious person.

The speaker of the poem is a religious person who, like Hopkins, could very well be a church pastor. You know this because the speaker is not all-knowing, so he or she must be human. Also, the fact that the speaker uses expressions common in church settings, such as "Glory be" and "Praise him," indicates that the speaker is a religious person who may even be delivering a sermon to a church congregation.

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### Topic 4 Content: "Pied Beauty" Analysis

#### Reading 1

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> A B C A B C  D B C D C </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> A B A B C  C D C D E </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; padding: 5px; width: 30%;"> A B C A B C  D E F D F </div> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #0070C0; width: 40px; height: 100px; margin: 0 auto; background-color: white;"></div> <p style="color: red; font-style: italic; margin-top: 10px;">drop rhyme scheme here</p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things—  For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;  For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;  Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;  Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;  And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange;  Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)  With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;  He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:  Praise him.</p>

How does the structure of this sonnet compare with the types of sonnet you have already studied?

What is the poem's rhyme scheme? Drag the correct rhyme scheme and drop it in the white box above.



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What is the poem's rhyme scheme? Drag the correct rhyme scheme and drop it in the white box above.

- ABCABC, DBCDC
- ABABAB, CDCDE
- ABCABC, DEFDF


Rhyme Scheme: ABCABC, DBCDC

The sonnet structure of "Pied Beauty" is similar to the Italian, or Petrarchan, sonnet. However, the rhyme scheme and number of lines in each stanza are unique. This modified form of the Italian sonnet is known as a Curtal sonnet. It was invented by Hopkins and is used in two other poems of his.

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### Reading 1

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p><b>Is there anything notable or different about the punctuation? What purposes might the unusual punctuation serve? Select each of the punctuation variations below to learn more. Then, click <i>NEXT</i> to continue.</b></p> <p>Hyphens</p> <p>Semicolons</p> <p>Accent marks</p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	


Is there anything notable or different about the punctuation? What purposes might the unusual punctuation serve? Select each of the punctuation variations below to learn more. Then, click *NEXT* to continue.

- Hyphens
- Semicolons
- Accent marks

# Module 7: Balancing the Individual and Society

## Topic 4 Content: "Pied Beauty" Analysis

### Reading 1

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p>Hopkins uses hyphens to create new compound words that are reminiscent of Old English kennings. For example, the hyphenation used in <i>couple-color</i> indicates that the skies are made up of two colors.</p> <p>Many of these compound words use alliteration, which creates a smooth, flowing language that rolls off the tongue, as in the term <i>fathers-forth</i> which means "creates." The alliteration contributes to a sing-song, happy cadence.</p> <p>What color do you think <i>fresh-firecoal</i> refers to?</p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p> <p><a href="#">Return to Punctuation.</a></p>	

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What color do you think *fresh-firecoal* refers to?

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#### Reading 1

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p>Hopkins frequently uses both commas and semicolons. Notice that in the first stanza, Hopkins separates many of his "dappled things" with semicolons. However, in the second stanza, the pace of the language is quickened by the single-syllable alliteration. Semicolons are used to slow down the quickening pace.</p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	

[Return to Punctuation.](#)




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#### Reading 1


Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p>You may have also noticed the use of acute accent marks in the words "áll trádes." The accent marks over the vowels here are reminiscent of 16<sup>th</sup>-century poetry.</p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p> <p><a href="#">Return to Punctuation.</a></p>	

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#### Reading 2


Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p><b>How do the speaker's first four words "Glory be to God" affect your understanding of why he lists the "dappled things"? After you reflect on the answer to this question, click the box below to learn more.</b></p> <div data-bbox="289 890 1057 1108"><p>The speaker reminds the reader that the "dappled things" are God's creations. Naturally pied things, such as the scales of trout, are just as beautiful and perfectly made as other creations considered more breathtaking, such as a red rose. Click <b>NEXT</b> to continue.</p></div>	<p><b>Glory be to God</b> for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	

How do the speaker's first four words "Glory be to God" affect your understanding of why he lists the "dappled things"? After you reflect on the answer to this question, click the box below to learn more.

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**Reading 2**

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p><b>How is the last line of the first stanza different from the rest of the listed "things"? Why might Hopkins have included these things? After you reflect on the answer to this question, click the box below to learn more.</b></p> <p>The speaker moves away from animals and sights in nature to the jobs that humans do and the tools they use. While some of these jobs and tools may seem less than desirable, they are just as beautiful as things found in nature. Click <b>NEXT</b> to continue.</p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; <b>And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</b></p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	


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#### Reading 2

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p><b>What do the first three lines of the second stanza mean? Why might Hopkins have listed so many adjectives? After you reflect on the answer to this question, click the box below to learn more.</b></p> <div data-bbox="289 890 1057 1108" style="border: 1px solid blue; border-radius: 10px; padding: 10px;"><p>The speaker draws attention to all God's creations, whether they are plain and utilitarian or beautiful and notable. He uses numerous adjectives to emphasize the wide diversity of all beings and how all of them are equally beautiful. Click <b>NEXT</b> to continue.</p></div>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	

What do the first three lines of the second stanza mean? Why might Hopkins have listed so many adjectives? After you reflect on the answer to this question, click the box below to learn more.

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#### Reading 2

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p>You may have noted the parenthetical question in line eight: "(who knows how?)". What do you think is the purpose of this interjection? After you reflect on the answer to this question, click the box below to learn more.</p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	

This unanswerable question reveals that the speaker of the poem does not understand the mysterious workings of God, and it suggests that perhaps it does not matter whether one understands how God works.  
Click **NEXT** to continue.

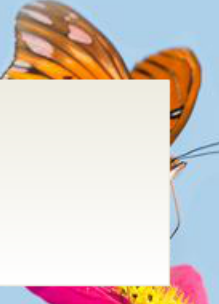


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**Reading 2**

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p><b>What is the message of this poem? In the box below, summarize the poem in your own words to make sure you understand the essence of the poem's meaning. After you have typed your summary, click <i>SUBMIT</i> to check your understanding.</b></p> <div data-bbox="277 915 1328 1115" style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; background-color: #fff; margin-top: 10px;">type your text here</div>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	

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#### Reading 2

Reading 1      Reading 2      Reading 3

Compare your answer with the poem summary below. How does your interpretation of the poem differ from the one provided, if at all? Then, click *NEXT* to continue.

Hopkins uses examples of speckled things to point out to his readers that God makes no mistakes. Everything He creates is done intentionally and thoughtfully, even if mere mortals cannot quite understand his mysterious ways. Additionally, there are jobs on this earth and tools that accompany them that might not seem glamorous—like a plunger—but all these tools enrich people's lives in some way. Regardless of how things look, humans should revere them and give praise to God for creating them.


type your text here

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**Reading 3**

Reading 1	Reading 2	Reading 3
<p><b>Now you are ready for your third read of the poem. In this read (which you should do aloud), put all the pieces together and read the poem from beginning to end. Make sure to take the time to appreciate your new understanding of the meaning and sound of the poem.</b></p> <p><b>How does the message of "Pied Beauty" parallel what you know about the era?</b></p>	<p>Glory be to God for dappled things— For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow; For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim; Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings; Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough; And áll trádes, their gear and tackle and trim.</p> <p>All things counter, original, spare, strange; Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?) With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim; He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change: Praise him.</p>	

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How does the message of "Pied Beauty" parallel what you know about the era?