

Examples of students' ekphrases

Note: The ekphrasis samples which follow were written by students in the IB diploma class of 2017 and are used by permission of the authors.

Allure Me

by Ashley Roundtree

Based on *Untitled* by Zdzisław Beksiński



Why do I cling to you so tightly
As if nothing at all
Could pry us apart?

Is it
The strong weakness between us,
Spindly limbs, gnarled fingers,
swollen joints, bulging veins—
Desperation?

Is it

the way you cradle my skull against your shoulder blade,
Protective,
Or the firm, sensual grip of your fingers
Against my hip bone?

Is it

The way you face a timid hope
Glowing cautiously from the side,
And I squarely face the shadows behind you?

Is it

The way our skeletons fit together
Like puzzle pieces,
Lovers,
Or maybe a sword in its sheath?
I see nothing, only focus on every point we touch—
Bone against bone.

How long have we been here?
And *why* do I cling to you so tightly?
Maybe.

Is it

You that won't let go?

Say Something

by Klara Grochulska

Based on *La Grande Odalisque* from
the series *Les Femmes du Maroc*
by Lalla Essaydi Moroccan
(use the QR code to view the painting)



Say something.

Please, go ahead.

Your lips move
and words come out
yet I hear nothing.

Say something.
Please, label me.

Your possessive words cling to my skin
like leeches sucking for blood.

They trap me.

They engulf me.

They do not phase me.

Say something
please, because you know I won't.
I am a woman and you are a man
so night after night
what you say goes.

Say something
please, about the hot ashes burning my feet.

You will never understand them.

You will never be able to feel them,
for you are a man.

I have no words,
they give me no power
but just you wait, I'll leave you in an hour.

The Whale

by Sonia Hossain

Based on *Untitled Illustration of Moby Dick* by Rockwell Kent



The whale,
He is
Majestic, untamed, free,
But also a Dick in more ways than one.

He is a killer and a savior.

He is a demon, a monster,
A condemnation of holy men.

He is a prophet, an angel,
A cross of sanctification.

He is a guide,
Leading the fallen stars
To the midnight depths of the sea.

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