

ENGL. 215.003
Reading Literature: Camp

Test 1 (take home portion): (10 points of 20 total)

In her influential essay, “Notes on Camp,” Susan Sontag attempts to outline the contours of a camp “sensibility.” For Sontag, camp involves:

- “style at the expense of content” (#5, p. 278)
- “a large element of artifice” (#7, p. 279)
- “self-parody that reeks of self-love” (#20, p. 283)

In a response of 1.5-2 pages, **choose one of these phrases** and **use it to help you interpret a character** from one of our course texts. Your response should:

1) Explain, ***in your own words***, how you understand the quotation from Sontag, referring to details from class lecture and discussion of course texts and/or Sontag’s explanation of the point in her essay. Here you can be broad and draw from multiple examples of our course texts.

2) Focus your discussion by choosing a character from one of our course texts and discuss, ***in your own words***, how that character exemplifies or demonstrates the characteristics you associate with that phrase, referring to specific details from the text or film. Characters you may choose include:

- Vivian, from Wilde’s “The Decay of Lying”
- Pepper Labeija or Dorian Corey from Livingston’s *Paris is Burning*
- The nameless protagonist from *Fantomina*
- The Wife of Bath from Chaucer’s, *Canterbury Tales*
 - *Example* : How does the Wife of Bath demonstrate “a large element of artifice,” for example? : How does Vivian convey a preference for “style at the expense of content”?

Please bring a paper copy to class, Friday 2/ 21, unless otherwise discussed. You will hand it in along with the rest of the test.