Desolation Row   
Bob Dylan

They're  
Selling postcards  
Of the hanging  
They're painting  
The passports brown  
The beauty parlor  
Is filled with sailors  
The circus is in town  
Here comes  
The blind commissioner  
They've got him in a trance  
One hand is tied  
To the tight-rope walker  
The other is in his pants  
And the riot squad  
They're restless  
They need somewhere to go  
As Lady  
And I look out tonight  
From Desolation Row

Cinderella  
She seems so easy  
"It takes one to know one"  
She smiles  
And puts her hands  
In her back pockets  
Bette Davis style  
And in comes Romeo  
He's moaning  
"You Belong to Me I Believe"  
And someone says  
"You're in the wrong place  
My friend  
You better leave"  
And the only sound that's left  
After the ambulances go  
Is Cinderella sweeping up  
On Desolation Row

Now the moon is almost hidden  
The stars are beginning to hide  
The fortunetelling lady  
Has even taken  
All her things inside  
All except for Cain and Abel  
And the hunchback of Notre Dame  
Everybody is making love  
Or else expecting rain  
And the Good Samaritan  
He's dressing  
He's getting ready  
For the show  
He's going  
To the carnival tonight  
On Desolation Row

Now Ophelia  
She's 'neath the window  
For her I feel so afraid  
On her twenty-second birthday  
She already is an old maid

To her death  
Is quite romantic  
She wears an iron vest  
Her profession's her religion  
Her sin is her lifelessness  
And though her eyes  
Are fixed upon  
Noah's great rainbow  
She spends her time peeking  
Into Desolation Row

Einstein  
Disguised as Robin Hood  
With his memories in a trunk  
Passed this way an hour ago  
With his friend  
A jealous monk  
He looked  
So immaculately frightful  
As he bummed a cigarette  
Then he went off  
Sniffing drainpipes  
And reciting the alphabet  
Now you  
Would not think  
To look at him  
But he was famous long ago  
For playing  
The electric violin  
On Desolation Row

Dr. Filth, he keeps his world  
Inside of a leather cup  
But all his sexless patients  
They're trying to blow it up  
Now his nurse, some local loser  
She's in charge  
Of the cyanide hole  
And she also keeps  
The cards that read  
"Have Mercy on His Soul"  
They all play  
On penny whistles  
You can hear them blow  
If you lean  
Your head out far enough  
From Desolation Row

Across the street  
They've nailed the curtains  
They're getting ready  
For the feast  
The Phantom of the Opera  
A perfect image of a priest  
They're spoon feeding Casanova  
To get him to feel more assured  
Then they'll kill him  
With self-confidence  
After poisoning him with words

And the Phantom's  
Shouting to skinny girls  
"Get Outta Here  
If You Don't Know  
Casanova is just being  
Punished for going  
To Desolation Row"

Now at midnight all the agents  
And the superhuman crew  
Come out and round up everyone  
That knows more than they do  
Then they bring them to the factory  
Where the heart-attack machine  
Is strapped across their shoulders  
And then the kerosene  
Is brought down from the castles  
By insurance men who go  
Check to see  
That nobody is escaping  
To Desolation Row

Praise be to Nero's Neptune  
The Titanic sails at dawn  
And everybody's shouting  
"Which Side Are You On?"  
And Ezra Pound and T. S. Eliot  
Fighting in the captain's tower  
While calypso singers laugh at them  
And fishermen hold flowers  
Between the windows of the sea  
Where lovely mermaids flow  
And nobody has to think too much  
About Desolation Row

Yes,  
I received your letter yesterday  
(About the time the door knob broke)  
When you asked how I was doing  
Was that some kind of joke?  
All these people that you mention  
Yes, I know them, they're quite lame  
I had to rearrange their faces  
And give them all another name  
Right now I can't read too good  
Don't send me no more letters no  
Not unless you mail them  
From Desolation Row

Directions:   
1. Number each line.   
2. Find at least 3 examples of each: allusions, imagery, and symbolism

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| SYMBOLISM EXAMPLES: Write out the entire example. | LINE #: | SIGNIFICANCE: Must explain in EXPLICIT and SPECIFIC detail. |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ALLUSION EXAMPLES: Write out the entire example. | LINE #: | SIGNIFICANCE: Must explain in EXPLICIT and SPECIFIC detail. |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IMAGERY EXAMPLES: Write out the entire example. | LINE #: | SIGNIFICANCE: Must explain in EXPLICIT and SPECIFIC detail. |
| 1. |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |

**We will come back to this assignment as we get through some of the work. It is important that you keep this with you AND put it in your LEARNING PORTFOLIO. 😊**