NOTES ON “SUMMER IN ENGLAND”

The use of light

“caressing pencils of light”

white houses

transfiguration seems to be Godlike

London is in God’s hands – sinless

Countryside swathed in light too – from the moon

Bountiful: “silken harvest,” bread of life – corn?

Apples

Juxtaposition of beauty and ugliness of war (“convulse”)

Juxtaposition of the sun rising and men falling (chaste vs impurity)

Horrors of war: men shot through the eyes

Quote from the Bible – dying on a kiss, rather than on a cross – Christ’s blessing?

The use of sound

Uses iambic tetrameter – has rhythmic feel – nursery rhyme

Rhyme scheme: ababcc all the way through until the final

line (trimester)

Soft sounds of city and country: “caressing pencils of the

sun,” “moon after moon,

“chaste young silver sun went up / softly, a thousand shattered men”

surprising when soft words suddenly turn harsh

flowers and fruit followed by disfigurement

Love hides its face – can’t be seen when hatred abounds

S sound is slippery, soft – beguiling –men are fooled by what

man can and does do –

On the battle field – does the human race finally reveal

itself?

Sound and meter lulls us into a false sense of security

We are all the sacrificed