‘Do not go gentle into that good night’ by Dylan Thomas

1. What are the themes of the poem?
2. What is the poem about?
3. What form is the poem written in?
4. What rhyme pattern does it have? What effect does this have?
5. Explain the title of the poem and the paradox of the words ‘good night’.
6. How is repetition used in the poem? Copy out a) repeated lines and b) repeated words, and comment on the significance of each in the poem.
7. What are the four types of men he refers to in the poem? For each type, explain how they view their lives with regret as they are dying and how Thomas thinks that they should approach death.
8. What is different about the content of the final stanza from the rest of the poem? Explain what Thomas means by the line ‘Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray’.
9. Explain the meaning and effect of the figurative language used in lines 2, 5, 8, 10 and 14. For each one say with type of imagery is being used.
10. Comment on the type of language Thomas uses in the poem.
11. Despite being a poem about death, what is surprising about the tone of the poem?
12. What is the message of the poem do you think? Do you agree with the message?
13. What is your personal response to the poem? What emotions does the poem make you feel?