

Roscoe Purkapile

SHE loved me. Oh! how she loved me!
I never had a chance to escape
From the day she first saw me.
But then after we were married I thought
She might prove her mortality and let me out, 5
Or she might divorce me.
But few die, none resign.
Then I ran away and was gone a year on a lark.
But she never complained. She said all would be well,
That I would return. And I did return. 10
I told her that while taking a row in a boat
I had been captured near Van Buren Street
By pirates on Lake Michigan,
And kept in chains, so I could not write her.
She cried and kissed me, and said it was cruel, 15
Outrageous, inhuman!
I then concluded our marriage
Was a divine dispensation
And could not be dissolved,
Except by death. 20
I was right.

1. Who is the **narrator**? What is the point of view?
2. What is the **tone**?
3. Circle examples of **figurative language** (and tell what kind in the margins).
4. Underline any **poetic devices** (and tell what kind in the margins).
5. What is a **theme** that the poem illustrates?

Mrs. Purkapile

HE ran away and was gone for a year.
When he came home he told me the silly story
Of being kidnapped by pirates on Lake Michigan
And kept in chains so he could not write me.
I pretended to believe it, though I knew very well 5
What he was doing, and that he met
The milliner, Mrs. Williams, now and then
When she went to the city to buy goods, as she said.
But a promise is a promise
And marriage is marriage, 10
And out of respect for my own character
I refused to be drawn into a divorce
By the scheme of a husband who had merely grown tired
Of his marital vow and duty.

6. Who is the narrator? What is the point of view?
7. What is the tone?
8. Circle examples of **figurative language** (and tell what kind in the margins).
9. Underline any **poetic devices** (and tell what kind in the margins).
10. What is a **theme** that the poem illustrates?
11. How does the **cross-reference** of the two poems help you understand the "whole story"?