Enlightenment
McIlvain

Name:						
	Period:	1	2	3	5	(CIRCLE ONE)

## **Epigrams**

Explanation and Worksheet

What is an epigram? An epigram is a short poem with a universal theme. In an epigram, brevity, clarity, and permanence are emphasized. Short epigrams or lines from epigrams are often used as inscriptions on buildings or statues, or as an epitaph for a gravestone. For example, the lines "Rest in soft peace, and, asked, say here doth lie/Ben Jonson his best piece of poetry" is a good epitaph for Jonson's son. The English poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote the following epigram to define epigrams:

What is an epigram? A dwarfish whole, Its body brevity, and wit its soul.

## A. DIRECTIONS: Read each of the excerpts below and circle those that can be considered epigrammatic.

- Mary had a little lamb,
   Its fleece was white as snow.
- Give me a look, give me a face, That makes simplicity a grace;
- 3. Drink to me only with thine eyes.
- To err is human, to forgive divine.
   (Alexander Pope, Essay on Criticism)
- 5. What's in a name? That which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet. (Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet)

B. DIRECTIONS: On the lines below, write five short two- or four-line epigrams.	

C. POSTER: Pick one epigram and create a poster  First, you need to design a poster which illustrates your epigram. On one side of your poster you should
somehow illustrate your epigram. On the other side of the poster you should put the epigram in your
own words and describe an event from a movie which illustrates this truth. You must describe the even
in detail and explain how it demonstrates the epigram. Below is rubric.
/ 10 Your illustration shows effort
/ 10 Your example fits the epigram
/ 5 Your adequately explain how your example exemplifies your epigram