Worksheet for “Porphyria’s Lover”

1. What is the setting of the poem? Write the line that supports your answer.
2. Who are the characters in the poem? Describe each character by using lines from the poem.
3. Write a summary of the events of the poem. Make sure that you cover each event in the poem.
4. What is the possible theme for the poem? Explain your answer using examples from the poem.
5. What effect does the arrival of Porphyria have on the narrator?
6. Do you notice anything unusual about the way Porphyria behaves when she comes in?
7. “She has taken off her cloak and shawl; now she makes her shoulder bare.” What is she wearing underneath?
8. The speaker and Porphyria switch places somewhere/somehow in the poem. Why is this? What’s the effect?
9. Why does the poem end with the speaker’s assertion that there will be no consequences for his actions?
10. What’s the effect of the switch to the present tense in line 58?