Paper two, due Tuesday, October 27th

John Sterling’s first collection of *Poems* (1839) is linked on our website. Read through all the poems swiftly and pick one or two that interest you for further study. Consider the critical values Sterling expresses in his *Quarterly Review* essay on the *Poems* of Alfred Tennyson (2v, 1842). Can you apply any of Sterling’s critical approaches to his own poetry? Does Sterling live up to his own description of the roll of the poet in his age? What kind of response to the age is posed by Sterling’s own poetry? Is it the poetry of sensation or the poetry of reflection (Hallam)? Is it didactic? How does it resolve the conflict between public poetry and private?

What kind of sentiment does Sterling approve? What kind does he kindle? Does his own poetry group itself into different kinds the way he groups Tennyson’s into different kinds? Do you find any influence that Tennyson’s poetry had on Sterling or vice versa?

Having thought over these questions and studied Sterling’s poetry, form a thesis of your own and support it with good arguments and readings from both the poetry and the criticism.

Five pages, typed, double-spaced with bibliography of works consulted.