Tone Worksheet 4

Directions: Read each poem and then answer the following questions.

from Songs of an Empty House
By Marguerite Wilkinson

My father got me strong and straight and slim,
And I give thanks to him;
My mother bore me glad and sound and sweet, --
I kiss her feet.

I have no son, whose life of flesh and fire
Sprang from my splendid sire,
No daughter for whose soul my mother's flesh
Wrought raiment\textsuperscript{1} fresh.

Life's venerable\textsuperscript{2} rhythms like a flood
Beat in my brain and blood,
Crying from all the generations past,
"Is this the last?"

And I make answer to my haughty\textsuperscript{3} dead,
Who made me, heart and head,
"Even the sunbeams falter, flicker and bend --
I am the end."

1. What is this poem about? ____________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

2. What is the speaker's tone? ___________________________________________________________
   Explain your answer using textual evidence.

Prevision
By Aline Kilmer

I know you are too dear to stay;
You are so exquisitely sweet:
My lonely house will thrill someday
To echoes of your eager feet.

A faint, unearthly music rings
From you to Heaven -- it is not far!
A mist about your beauty clings
Like a thin cloud before a star.

I hold your words within my heart,
So few, so infinitely dear;
Watching your fluttering hands I start
At the corroding touch of fear.

My heart shall keep the child I knew,
When you are really gone from me,
And spend its life remembering you
As shells remember the lost sea.

3. What is this poem about? ____________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is the speaker's tone? ___________________________________________________________
   Explain your answer using textual evidence.
I Shall Not Die for Thee
By Douglas Hyde

For thee, I shall not die,
Woman of high fame and name;
Foolish men thou mayest slay
I and they are not the same.

Why should I expire
For the fire of an eye,
Slender waist or swan-like limb,
Is't for them that I should die?

The golden hair, the forehead thin,
The chaste¹ mien², the gracious ease,
The rounded heel, the languid³ tone,—
Fools alone find death from these.

Thy sharp wit, thy perfect calm,
Thy thin palm like foam o' the sea;
Thy white neck, thy blue eye,
I shall not die for thee.

Woman, graceful as the swan,
A wise man did nurture me.
Little palm, white neck, bright eye,
I shall not die for ye.

---

5. What is this poem about? ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

6. What is the speaker's tone? ___________________________________________________________________

Explain your answer using textual evidence.

---

"There will come Soft Rain"
By Sara Teasdale

There will come soft rain and the smell of the ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering sound;

And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild plum-trees in tremulous¹ white;

Robins will wear their feathery fire
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire.

And not one will know of the war, not one
Will care at last when it is done.

Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree,
If mankind perished² utterly³.

And Spring herself when she woke at dawn,
Would scarcely know that we were gone.

---

7. What is this poem about? ____________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

8. What is the speaker's tone? ___________________________________________________________________

Explain your answer using textual evidence.

---

1. chaste: morally pure
2. mien: facial expression or attitude
3. languid: lacking enthusiasm

1. tremulous: trembling, quivering, or shaking
2. perished: died or expired
3. utterly: totally, completely