The Dream of the Rood

Please write an essay of 1700-2200 words answering ONE of the following questions:

1) Write a detailed analysis of The Dream of the Rood, showing how form, style and content work together.

2) ‘In form the poem is a dream vision. [...] Stylistically however, it contains elements of the riddle form.’ What light do such generic parallels cast on The Dream of the Rood?

3) ‘To some extent, every Old English poem makes a leap of imagination into the cultural gap between the past and the present, [...] secular Germanic and Christian Latin values’ (ROY M. LIUZZA). Explore these ‘cultural gaps’ in The Dream of the Rood.

Essays are due in my pigeon hole at 9am on Monday, 21 Feb (6\textsuperscript{th} wk).

Primary Sources

The Old English text can be found in Mitchell and Robinson and on the Old English Coursepack on Weblearn. Another excellent edition with detailed textual notes is by Michael Swanton (Exeter, 1996).

There is a translation of the poem in Hamer’s A Choice of Anglo-Saxon Verse.

Secondary Sources


See also [http://www.english.ox.ac.uk/oecoursepack/rood/reading.html](http://www.english.ox.ac.uk/oecoursepack/rood/reading.html) for more material.