

## ENG 314 – Chapter 9

### A. Are the bracketed PPs adverbials (functioning at sentence level) or modifiers (modifying an N)?

From Anne Brontë's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*

You must go back with me [to the autumn [of 1827.]] 1  
2  
My father, as you know, was a sort of gentleman farmer in -shire;  
and I, [by his express desire], succeeded him in the same quiet 3  
occupation, not very willingly, for ambition urged me to higher  
aims, and self-conceit assured me that, in disregarding its voice,  
I was burying my talent [in the earth], and hiding my light under a 4  
bushel. My mother had done her utmost to persuade me that I was  
capable of great achievements; but my father, who thought ambition  
was the surest road to ruin, and change but another word for  
destruction, would listen to no scheme for bettering either my own  
condition, or that [of my fellow mortals]. He assured me it was all 5  
rubbish, and exhorted me, with his dying breath, to continue in the  
good old way, to follow his steps, and those [of his father] before 6  
him, and let my highest ambition be to walk honestly through the  
world, looking neither to the right hand nor to the left, and to  
transmit the paternal acres [to my children] in, at least, as 7  
flourishing a condition as he left them to me.

### B. Find all modifying PPs in:

'Well! - an honest and industrious farmer is one of the most useful members of society; and if I devote my talents to the cultivation of my farm, and the improvement of agriculture in general, I shall thereby benefit, not only my own immediate connections and dependants, but, in some degree, mankind at large:- hence I shall not have lived in vain.' With such reflections as these I was endeavouring to console myself, as I plodded home from the fields, one cold, damp, cloudy evening towards the close of October. But the gleam of a bright red fire through the parlour window had more effect in cheering my spirits, and rebuking my thankless repinings, than all the sage reflections and good resolutions I had forced my mind to frame; - for I was young then, remember - only four-and-twenty - and had not acquired half the rule over my own spirit that I now possess - trifling as that may be.