Robert Burns' Poetry: A Red, Red Rose

Robert Burns was a Scottish poet, most noted for his poem/song “Auld Lang Syne.” It is sung traditionally at New Year’s. That poem and the one below, which was written in 1794, are both written in Scots. Scots is a language variation spoken in Scotland.

A Red, Red Rose

O my luve is like a red, red rose
That’s newly sprung in June;
My luve is like the melodie
That’s sweetly played in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonny lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a’ the seas gang dry.

Till a’ the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi’ the sun;
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o’ life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luve!
And fare thee weel, awhile!
And I will come again, my luve
Though it were ten thousand mile.

Part I: Scots Spelling

The poem features the Scots spellings of words. For each of the words below, write the Standard English word in the blank.

1. luve ____________________________
2. gang ___________________________
3. weel ___________________________
4. a’ _____________________________
5. melodie _________________________
6. bonny __________________________
7. o’ ______________________________
8. till ______________________________
9. wi’ ______________________________
10. mile ____________________________

Part II. Similes

A simile is a comparison of two things using the words “as” or “like.” List the two similes in the poem.

1. ________________________________
2. ________________________________
Robert Burns was a Scottish poet, most noted for his poem/song “Auld Lang Syne.”
It is sung traditionally at New Year’s. That poem and the one below, which was written in 1794, are both written in Scots. Scots is a language variation spoken in Scotland.

A Red, Red Rose

O my luve is like a red, red rose
That’s newly sprung in June;
My luve is like the melodie
That’s sweetly played in tune.

As fair art thou, my bonny lass,
So deep in luve am I;
And I will luve thee still, my dear,
Till a’ the seas gang dry.

Till a’ the seas gang dry, my dear,
And the rocks melt wi’ the sun;
I will luve thee still, my dear,
While the sands o’ life shall run.

And fare thee weel, my only luve!
And fare thee weel, awhile!
And I will come again, my luve
Though it were ten thousand mile.

Part I: Scots Spelling

The poem features the Scots spellings of words. For each of the words below, write the Standard English word in the blank.

1. luve ____________________________  love
2. gang ____________________________  go
3. weel ____________________________  well
4. a’ _____________________________  all
5. melodie _________________________  melody
6. bonny ____________________________  bonnie
7. o’ ______________________________  of
8. till ______________________________  until
9. wi’ ______________________________  with
10. mile _____________________________  miles

Part II. Similes

A simile is a comparison of two things using the words “as” or “like.” List the two similes in the poem.

1. The author’s love and a red rose
2. The author’s love and a melody