

Writing about context for each of the Love and Relationships poems

AO3 on the mark scheme requires you to refer to the context of the poem

- Historical - do the ideas in the poem relate to the time in which it is written/set?
- Geographical - How is the poem shaped and influenced by the place it which it's set?
- Social - Is the poet criticising or praising the society or community they're writing about?
- Cultural - Does the poet draw on a particular aspect of their background or culture?
- Literary - Was the poet influenced by other works of literature or a particular literary movement (eg Romanticism)? The Romantic movement (or Romanticism) flourished in the late 18th century and the first half of the 19th century and celebrated emotion, wildness and nature above reason and science. There were a group of poets know as the Romantics. Romantic poetry focused on feelings and emotions, often those provoked by interacting with nature.

Poem and Poet	Context
<p>When We Two Parted - Lord Byron</p> <p>WRITTEN DURING THE ROMANTIC LITERARY MOVEMENT</p>	<p>Lord Byron was an English poet and one of the most famous members of the <u>Romantic movement</u>. This poem is said to be about his love affair with Lady Francis Webster. Not only was she a married woman, but she was also the wife of one of his friends. Later, after the affair ended, Byron learned of Lady Frances' new affair with the Duke of Wellington. It was said of Byron that he was 'Mad, bad and dangerous to know'!</p>
<p>Love's Philosophy - Percy Shelley</p> <p>WRITTEN DURING THE ROMANTIC LITERARY MOVEMENT</p>	<p>Unlike Byron he did not achieve success until after his death. He was unpopular due to writing about controversial issues such as vegetarianism, atheism and the need for social and political change. His second wife was Mary Shelley who wrote Frankenstein.</p>

<p>Porphyras' Lover - Robert Browning</p> <p>WRITTEN IN THE VICTORIAN ERA</p>	<p>The woman in the poem is named after a disease called Porphyria. It is a rare type of disease, which can result in madness of some kind. This has led some people to interpret the poem as a metaphor for dealing with this disease. It was first identified a few years before the poem was written. Written at the time of a patriarchal society.</p>
<p>Sonnet 29 - Elizabeth Barrett Browning</p> <p>WRITTEN IN THE VICTORIAN ERA</p>	<p>This sonnet is one of 44 that Elizabeth Barrett wrote about her romance with Robert Browning. All of them are love poems addressed to him.</p> <p>In the 19th Century, a woman was expected to be reserved about her feelings. Instead, the speaker openly expresses her desires, defying the social norms of Victorian Britain. Brought up in a deeply religious family, she was disowned by her father following her secret marriage to Robert Browning.</p>
<p>Neutral Tones - Thomas Hardy</p> <p>WRITTEN IN THE VICTORIAN ERA</p>	<p>Hardy's wife Emma came to resent his growing fame as an author/poet as well as the demands that put on their marriage.</p> <p>She died in 1912, and Hardy mourned her forever, it seems. The "Emma poems" are among his finest.</p> <p>His poetry is marked with his disbelief in God and a belief in some other ruling force within the universe.</p>
<p>The Farmer's Bride - Charlotte Mew</p> <p>SET IN THE VICTORIAN ERA</p>	<p>Two of Mew's siblings suffered from mental illness and were committed to asylums for the insane at an early age. The fear of passing on insanity to their children resulted in Charlotte making a pact with her sister never to marry and have children. Charlotte Mew was very much a 'new woman'. While living in France she would travel around alone, smoked heavily and would dress in a purposefully unfashionable way for the time. Mew suffered from intense depression - an intensity of emotion found in the narrator of The Farmer's Bride and in 1928 Charlotte Mew committed suicide by drinking the strong disinfectant Lysol.</p>

<p>Letters from Yorkshire - Maura Dooley</p> <p>WRITTEN IN THE 1960s/70s</p>	<p>One of the Irish poets in the collection, her poetry is often simple and reflective, but the images she creates represent deep and complex feelings. This poem was inspired by letters she received from a friend which made her miss Yorkshire.</p>
<p>Walking Away - Cecil Day Lewis</p> <p>MODERN POEM</p>	<p>The poem is about his son, Sean. In the poem, he is thinking back to when Sean started at boarding school at the age of seven. His other (younger) son is famous Oscar winning actor Daniel Day Lewis.</p>
<p>Eden Rock - Charles Causley</p> <p>MODERN POEM</p>	<p>When he was asked to write an autobiography, he replied that his life was in his poems. "If I didn't write poetry, I think I'd explode." Charles Causley</p>
<p>Follower - Seamus Heaney</p> <p>MODERN POEM</p>	<p>Another Irish poet, Heaney's poetry is often autobiographical, dealing with his personal experiences of life. He worried what his father would think about the ending of this poem, but they never discussed it.</p>
<p>Mother, Any Distance - Simon Armitage</p> <p>MODERN POEM</p>	<p>This poem comes from a collection called Book of Matches (1993), which is a collection of poems without titles. Each poem is meant to be read in the time it takes a match to burn down - about twenty seconds, unless you want to burn your fingers showing each poem is a brief snapshot of life. There is a pun in the title: we call it a matchbook from which you tear out matches. However, a book in the normal sense is full of words for us to read.</p>

<p>Before you were Mine - Carol Ann Duffy</p> <p>MODERN POEM</p>	<p>Duffy is one of the most significant names in contemporary British poetry and is regarded as one of Britain's most well-loved & successful poets. Appeals to those who wouldn't normally read poetry .</p>
<p>Winter Swans - Owen Sheers</p> <p>MODERN POEM</p>	<p>Owen Sheers is a Welsh writer and poet. Welsh history and identity is an important theme in his writing. The poem 'Winter Swans' is taken from his 2005 poetry collection, <i>Skirrid Hill</i>. <i>Skirrid</i> means divorce or separation.</p>
<p>Singh Song - Daljit Nagra</p> <p>MODERN POEM</p>	<p>Nagra is a British Indian who is very proud of his Indian roots. He acknowledges the fact that the Indian accent can be mimicked at times and enjoys that, because the poem is written phonetically, you have to take on an Indian accent when reading it. He is proud of his accent and enjoys hearing it in his poetry.</p>
<p>Climbing my Grandfather - Andrew Waterhouse</p> <p>MODERN POEM</p>	<p>Waterhouse sadly died by suicide in 2001 just as he was becoming renowned as a poet. He was only 42 at the time of his death. He had a wide range of interests from being a musician to an ardent environmentalist. His love of the landscape is often reflected in his use of the natural world in his poetry. He felt a need to understand himself by exploring his childhood memories and in 'Climbing My Grandfather' the reader can sense the connection that he felt with his grandfather.</p>