

Poetry booklet

- **Structure**- aim to comment on it, explain why it has been set out in a particular way
- **Stanza**- paragraph within a poem
- **Dramatic monologue**- one person speaking throughout and the reader gets to know their thoughts and emotions.
- **Enjambment**- no full stop at the end of the stanza/ carries on
- **Caesura**- a 'break' in the middle of a line (full stop/ colon)
- **Mood**- a certain feeling created in a poem

'When We Two Parted' by Lord Byron

Summary: the narrator is grieving the loss of a relationship. It is implied that this love was forbidden.

Context: Byron was known for having affairs and eventually moved abroad after a relationship had ended. This poem is said to have been about his affair with Lady Frances Webster who was married at the time.

Key quotes:

- 'To sever for years, Pale Colder thy kiss.'
- 'They name thee before me, A knell to mine ear'.
- 'In secret we met- In silence I grieve.'

Themes

Loss, distance, death, memory, gender, culture

'Love's Philosophy' by Percy Shelley

Summary: About a man persuading a woman she should be with him. His trying to woo her but is quite obsessive.

Context: Narrator is wanting to be with the woman he likes. Shelley is an example of a Romantic poet who often reference nature in his work

Key quotes:

- 'The fountains mingle with the river And the rivers with the ocean.'
- 'I one another's being mingle- Why not I with thine?'
- 'And the sunlight clasps the earth, And the moonbeams kiss the sea'

Themes

Fulfilment, romance, desire, nature

'Porphyria's Lover' by Robert Browning

Summary: A deranged man who strangles his own lover with her own hair. This poem is a dramatic monologue, only one person is speaking throughout.

Context: This poem could be a metaphor for dealing with the disease 'Porphyria' which creates madness.

Key quotes:

- 'The rain set early in tonight, The sullen wind was soon awake,'
- 'And made her smooth white shoulder bare, And all her yellow hair displaced.'
- 'Porphyria worshipped me'
- 'strangled her.'
- 'Her head, which droops upon it still: the smiling rosy little head.'
- 'I am quite sure she felt no pain'

Themes

Romance, fulfilment, desire, death

'Sonnet 29- I think of thee!' by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Summary: A woman who is always thinking about her lover and wants to get intimate with him. This poem is an extended metaphor- the narrator is the vines and her lover is the tree.

Context: Victorian Society and role of women. Usually they were demure and coy but speaker goes against this perception. She sent letters in secret to her lover (Robert Browning) as she has an overbearing father would not allow her to be in a relationship.

Key quotes:

'I think of thee!- my thoughts do twine and bud About thee, as wild vines, about a tree.'

'Put out broad leaves, and soon there's nought to see.'

'And let these bands of greenery which insphere thee Drop heavily down,- burst, shattered, everywhere!'

Themes

Romance, distance, desire, nature

'Neutral Tones' by Thomas Hardy

Summary: About looking back at a break up which took place during a winter walk by a pond

Context: Relationships were expected to last in that period. Sympathetic background is used in much of his work as he liked the weather to reflect the mood and emotions of the speaker

Key quotes:

- 'We stood by a pond that winter day, And the sun was white.'
- 'Your eyes on me were as eyes that rove.'
- 'The smile on your mouth was the deadest thing.'
- 'And a pond edged with greyish leaves.'

Themes

Loss, distance, nature, death (of their relationship), memory

'The Farmer's Bride' by Charlotte Mew

Summary: A farmer who chooses a bride who is too young and is afraid of him. She tries to escape and run from their relationship, however, him and the whole community hunt her down.

Context: Victorian era. Patriarchal society so women had little power and often didn't choose their husband.

Key quotes:

- 'Three Summers since I chose a maid.'
- 'Of love and me and things human; Like the shut of a winter's day.'
- 'We chased her, flying like a hare'

Themes

Romance, loss, distance, desire, nature, marriage, gender, culture

'Walking Away' by Cecil Day Lewis

Summary: A father remembering his son's first football match. Letting his son go and watching him gain his independence is difficult for him.

Context: Father and son relationship and the power of memory. This poem is about his son, Sean and has therefore experienced the emotions that are evident in the poem.

Key quotes:

- 'It's eighteen years ago, almost to the day- A sunny day with the new leaves just turning.'
- 'Your first game of football, then, like a satellite Wrenched from its orbit, go drifting away.'
- 'That hesitant figure, eddying away Like a winged seed loosened from its parent stem'

Themes

Independence, distance, strong bonds, memory

'Letters From Yorkshire' by Maura Dooley

Summary: A woman who lives in the city is writing a letter to her friend who lives in the countryside. She is wondering whether he has a better life than her as he is connected to nature.

Context: Shows a contrast between city and country life. Dooley once lived in Yorkshire and then moved to London, therefore has experienced life in the countryside.

Key quotes:

- 'In February, digging his garden, planting potatoes, he saw the first lapwings return.'
- 'It's not romance, simply how things are.'
- 'our souls tap out messages across the icy miles.'

Themes

Strong bonds, distance, admiration, desire, nature

'Eden Rock' by Charles Causley

Summary: A man thinking about his mum and dad. Could be about when he was being born or when he's near death. Crossing over the street is used as a metaphor for crossing over to death.

Context: His parents died young and this can be seen in the poem. He was influenced by nature

Key quotes:

- 'The sky whitens as if lit by three suns.'
- 'Over the drifted stream, My father spins A stone alone the water.'
- 'Crossing is not as hard as you think.'

Themes

Loss, strong bonds, distance, death, memory

'Follower' by Seamus Heaney

Summary: A man remembering how strong his dad used to be as he was 'an expert' plougher. At the end of the poem, the roles have reversed.

Context: Grew up in the countryside. Brought up with the simple things in life and was the eldest of 8 children.

Key quotes:

- 'My father worked with a horse- plough, His shoulders globed like a full sail strung.'
- 'An expert.'
- 'Sometimes he rode me on his back Dipping and rising to his plod.'
- 'All I ever did was follow In his broad shadow round the farm.'
- 'It is my father who keeps stumbling Behind me. And will not go away.'

Themes

Admiration, strong bonds, distance, nature, memory

'Mother Any Distance' by Simon Armitage

Summary: A son who moves out into his first house and his mum is helping him. Metaphor of the tape measure being the umbilical cord which shows the connection between child and parent.

Context: Armitage writes about complex emotions using everyday events which is evident in this poem. This poem comes from the collection called 'Book of Matches' as he wanted each poem to be read in the time it takes a match to burn.

Key quotes:

- 'Mother, any distance greater than a single span requires a second pair of hands.'
- 'breaking point where something has to give.'
- 'I reach towards a hatch that opens on an endless sky to fall or fly.'

Themes

Independence, strong bonds, distance

'Before You Were Mine' by Carol Ann Duffy

Summary: A daughter remembering her mum before she had her first baby.

Context: This poem is autobiographical as it is based on Duffy's own experienced. Duffy was born in Scotland.

Key quotes:

- 'I'm not here yet. The thought of me doesn't occur.'
- 'You reckons it's worth it.'
- 'clear as scent.'

Themes

Independence, strong bonds, distance

'Winter Swans' by Owen Sheers

Summary: About a couple who have fallen out but make up and reunite after seeing a pair of swans

Context: Comes from a collection from Owen Sheers entitled 'Skirrid' which translates to 'separation' or 'divorce' in Welsh.

Key quotes:

- 'The clouds had given their all- two days of rain and then a break'
- 'as we skirted the lake, silent and apart'
- 'I noticed our hands, that had, somehow, swum the distance between us...like a pair of wings settling their flight.'

Themes

Romance, fulfilment, distance, desire, nature

'Singh Song!' by Daljit Nagra

Summary: About a man who runs his father's corner shop but rebels to spend time and make love to his new bride.

Context: Poem based on the experiences Indian immigrants to Britain in the 70s. This poem celebrates Indian culture

Key quotes:

'cos up di stairs is my newly bride vee share in chapatti vee share in di chutney'

'my bride tiny eyes ov a gun and di tummy ov a teddy'

'Ven I return from di tickle ov my bride'

Themes

Romance, fulfilment, culture, marriage, desire

'Climbing My Grandfather' by Andrew Waterhouse

Summary: this poem is about the narrator remembering his grandad as a child and how close they were or getting to know him as an adult. This poem is also an extended metaphor- the grandfather the mountain and the child the climber.

Context: Waterhouse committed suicide after suffering from depression. This poem may be his own experiences of his grandfather.

Key quotes:

'pushing into the weave, trying to get a grip'.

'On his arm I discover the glassy ridge of a scar'

'then pull myself up the loose skin of his neck to a smiling mouth to drink among teeth.'

'knowing the slow pulse of his good heart.'

Themes

Strong bonds, admiration, nature, memory