

ONE SHEET REVISION

'Afternoons' by Philip Larkin

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

Annotate the poem with points you can remember from your initial study:

Summer is fading:

The leaves fall in ones and twos

From trees bordering

The new recreation ground.

5 In the hollows of afternoons

Young mothers assemble

At swing and sandpit

Setting free their children.

Behind them, at intervals,

10 Stand husbands in skilled trades,

An estateful of washing,

And the albums, lettered

Our Wedding, lying

Near the television:

15 Before them, the wind

Is ruining their courting-places

That are still courting-places

(But the lovers are all in school),

And their children, so intent on

20 Finding more unripe acorns,

Expect to be taken home.

Their beauty has thickened.

Something is pushing them

To the side of their own lives.

Complete the following questions on context:

- 1) Why is it important to know this poem celebrate the ordinary details of day to day life?
- 2) Why is it important to know Larkin never left the UK?
- 3) How is this shown in the poem?

Complete each analytical verb with a different idea:

Larkin may have written the poem:

to criticise

to teach

to warn

to reveal the importance of

to celebrate

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Annotate the following quotations by answering the questions for each:



- 1) What does the line mean?
- 2) What does the line suggest?
- 3) How has Larkin used language to present the passing of time?

'summer is fading'

'young mothers'

'their beauty has thickened'

'to the side of their own lives'

How does Larkin present loss of innocence?

Answer in full sentences.