

ONE SHEET REVISION

'A Wife in London' by Thomas Hardy

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

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

I – The Tragedy

She sits in the tawny vapour
That the City lanes have uprolled,
Behind whose webby fold on fold
Like a waning taper
5 The street-lamp glimmers cold.

A messenger's knock cracks smartly,
Flashed news is in her hand
Of meaning it dazes to understand
Though shaped so shortly:
10 He – has fallen – in the far South Land ...

II – The Irony

'Tis the morrow; the fog hangs thicker,
The postman nears and goes:
A letter is brought whose lines disclose
By the firelight flicker
15 His hand, whom the worm now knows:

Fresh – firm – penned in highest feather –
Page-full of his hoped return,
And of home-planned jaunts by brake and burn
In the summer weather,
20 And of new love that they would learn.

Complete the following questions on context:

- 1) Why is it important to know Hardy was a storyteller?
- 2) This is probably related to the Boer War, but could be related to others. Why is this important?
- 3) How is this shown in the poem?

Complete each analytical verb with a different idea:

Hardy 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 Hardy used language to present her relationship?

'tawny vapour'

'He – has fallen'

'fog hangs thicker'

'new love that they would learn'

How does Duffy present her war in the poem?

Answer in full sentences.