

ONE SHEET REVISION

'Cozy Apologia' by Rita Dove

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

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

Cozy Apologia

—for Fred

I could pick anything and think of you—
This lamp, the wind-still rain, the glossy blue
My pen exudes, drying matte, upon the page.
I could choose any hero, any cause or age
5 And, sure as shooting arrows to the heart,
Astride a dappled mare, legs braced as far apart
As standing in silver stirrups will allow—
There you'll be, with furrowed brow
And chain mail glinting, to set me free:
10 One eye smiling, the other firm upon the enemy.

This post-post-modern age is all business: compact disks
And faxes, a do-it-now-and-take-no-risks
Event. Today a hurricane is nudging up the coast,
Oddly male: Big Bad Floyd, who brings a host
15 Of daydreams: awkward reminiscences
Of teenage crushes on worthless boys
Whose only talent was to kiss you senseless.
They all had sissy names—Marcel, Percy, Dewey;
Were thin as licorice and as chewy,
20 Sweet with a dark and hollow center. Floyd's

Cussing up a storm. You're bunkered in your
Aerie, I'm perched in mine
(Twin desks, computers, hardwood floors):
We're content, but fall short of the Divine.
25 Still, it's embarrassing, this happiness—
Who's satisfied simply with what's good for us,
When has the ordinary ever been news?
And yet, because nothing else will do
To keep me from melancholy (call it blues),
30 I fill this stolen time with you.

Complete the following questions on context:

- 1) Why is it important to know that this is set against the arrival of a powerful storm which hit the USA in 1999?
- 2) Why is it important to know this poem could be autobiographical?
- 3) How is this shown in the poem?

Complete each analytical verb with a different idea:

Rita Dove 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 Dove used language to present her relationship?

'I could pick anything and think of you-'

'I could choose any hero, any cause or age'

'a do-it-now-and-take-no-risks'

'I fill this stolen with you.'

How does Dove present her relationship in the poem?

Answer in full sentences.