

Eduqas Poetry Anthology
Revision

Challenge Grids Part One

CHALLENGE GRID

The Manhunt by Simon Armitage

Why does Armitage choose to write from the wife's perspective rather than the soldier?

Which key aspects of war did Armitage perhaps set out to highlight? Why?

The meter is irregular and rhyme scheme is disjointed (almost rhymes but not quite). What might this reflect?

Where does the poet use exploratory verbs? Explore one through KWA to consider how it presents the wife.

Where does the writer use exploratory verbs within the poem? Select one to explore through KWA.

What connotations does the title hold? How does it possibly mislead us?

How did Armitage hope to create an alternative war poem here?

Which other poem shows similar ideas? How so?

What inspired the poem? Do you think it captures the ideas effectively?

What types of conflict are presented within the poem? Give at least two ideas and support with evidence.

At what point does the wife make a breakthrough? How do you know?

Where does the poet use imagery of fragility? Explore one example through KWA.

How many points can you accumulate in twenty minutes? Use short, direct quotations to extend ideas.

Meaning

Context

Structure

Language

CHALLENGE GRID

Sonnet 43 by Elizabeth Browning

<p>Is this an authentic representation of love? In your opinion, can someone that hasn't experienced love claim to understand it enough to write a poem about it?</p>	<p>How are Browning's ongoing health problems reflected in the poem?</p>	<p>How does the use of rhyme and orderly structure/ iambic pentameter fit or challenge what you would expect of a love poem?</p>	<p>What might she be referring to as a husband's , 'most quiet need'? (hint hint, get the dinner on...)</p>
<p>She loves 'with my childhood's faith,'- how has love made her child-like?</p>	<p>What is the significance of the exclamation mark? Why might she feel she needs to use it?</p>	<p>Why might Browning have chosen to write this as a sonnet based on what you know about her?</p>	<p>Why might Browning feel the need to open the poem with a question?</p>
<p>How did Browning meet her future husband? How might this have therefore not been a conventional relationship?</p>	<p>In your opinion, which is the most powerful metaphor used to depict love?</p>	<p>How is the title anti-climatic? Why might it not be love-related? Give two possible reasons.</p>	<p>Where does Browning repeatedly use religious imagery? Explore one example with KWA.</p>

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<p>Meaning</p>	<p>Context</p>	<p>Structure</p>	<p>Language</p>
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CHALLENGE GRID

London by William Blake

Why are the individuals described within the poem either desperate or lacking in compassion?

Name three typical jobs in Victorian London and explain this information is relevant to the poem.

What do each of the four quatrains show us about London? Draw a picture for each to explore your ideas. How is the final one most powerful?

How does the imagery used within the line, 'Runs in blood down Palace walls' depict London, or even England at the time?

How do the people of London feel the effect of the 'charter'd' streets?

How does the regular iambic pentameter reflect the ideas within the poem?

How successful was Britain at the time of Blake writing?

How might 'every' person feel, working for little money and in such dangerous conditions?

How might the richer classes have reacted to Blake's poem? Why might this be?

How could London be relevant today?

Where is juxtaposition used within the poem? Choose the best example and explore using KWA.

Explore the imagery used within the line, 'mind-forged manacles I hear.' Why 'hear' and not 'see'?

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CHALLENGE GRID

The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

According to Brooke, how should a soldier react to dying in action?

How would soldiers have reacted to this poem? Give two possible ideas with reasons.

Where does Brooke use repeated religious imagery? Explore one example- what is he implying about fighting for your country?

What does the aggressive alliteration of, 'foreign field' imply about England, or the countries they fight against?

Explore the imagery of the line, 'a dust whom England bore, shaped...' how is Brooke implying the soldiers should feel towards England? Why?

Brooke uses a great deal of sibilance within this poem- in your opinion, is this more evident within the first or second half? How does this reflect what is being described?

Was this poem an accurate depiction of WW1? Why/why not?

Why is England depicted as superior within this poem?

Why is it ironic that Brooke did not serve on the front line, dying before he got the opportunity to go to battle?

What could have been Brooke's motivation to write this poem?

The poem uses a sonnet structure; if the first part depicts the honourable death of a soldier, what does the second half describe?

Explore the personification of Britain; why might Brooke have chosen feminine imagery?

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CHALLENGE GRID

She Walks in Beauty by Lord Byron

In your opinion, which is the most flattering line within the poem? Why?

How is this poem an effective example of Romanticist poetry?

How do the qualities used to describe her differ between the first and the final stanza?

Why does Byron use so much sibilance in the line, 'thoughts serenely sweet express'?

He describes her 'nameless grace
Which wave in every raven tress,' - explore the connotations of 'raven.'

Why does he use an exclamation mark in the final line? Give two possible reasons.

How might women have been treated in the time that Byron wrote this poem? Use the poem to form your ideas.

Why are women presented as both heavenly and devilish within the poem?

Why was Lord Byron, 'mad, bad and dangerous to know'?

Do you think this was to convince a woman of his love or simply appreciate her appearance? Use evidence to justify your decision (or attempt both sides of the argument).

How does the rhyme scheme make his attempt more effective/convincing? Does his flattery get more or less effective?

Why does he use light and darkness to depict the woman? Use KWA to explore your ideas.

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CHALLENGE GRID

Living Space by Imtiaz Dharker

How do you think people living in the slums feel, based upon the worlds in the poem?

Why was cultural difference important to Dharker?

What reasons might there be for the disjointed and fragmented poetic structure?

Explore the verb choices made by the poet in the first stanza.

How is imagery used to portray fragility within the poem?

What is the significance of the word, 'faith' in the final line?

Based upon your knowledge of the poet, why might she have written this poem? Give at least two reasons.

Do you think Western society have misconceptions towards the slums?

Give a 'magic 3' pieces of information about Dharker.

In your opinion, is the poet presenting the slums in a positive or negative way?

What interpretations can you make from the title of the poem?

In the final stanza, what do the 'eggs' represent?

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CHALLENGE GRID

As Imperceptibly as Grief by Emily Dickinson

How is Time presented throughout the poem?

'Dickinson was quite simply, obsessed with death in her solitude.' To what extent do you agree?

What might each of the four stanzas represent?

Why are certain words capitalised within the poem? Choose two to explore further.

Explore the importance of the oxymoron, 'harrowing Grace.' How can Grace be harrowing?

Why might Dickinson choose dashes over more formal, traditional punctuation?

How is the fact that Dickinson was a social recluse relevant to this particular poem?

What type of loss do you think Dickinson was exploring here? Give at least two ideas.

Dickinson lived in solitude, existing as a spectator of life. Where is this evident here?

What might a 'light escape into the Beautiful' describe?

How does the speaker's mood change within the poem?

What does imperceptibly mean? How is it relevant here?

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CHALLENGE GRID

Cozy Apologia by Rita Dove

Do you think the speaker prefers content, comfortable love or passionate, fiery love?

How is hurricane Floyd relevant to the ideas within the poem?

What is meant by the rhetorical question in the final stanza? What answers may the speaker expect?

Explore the heroic imagery used within the first stanza; how does this present the speaker's lover as patriarchal?

How does the sibilance of the line, 'kiss you senseless,' portray the speaker's previous lovers?

How does the rhyme scheme contrast against the ideas discussed within the poem?

Knowing that Dove's husband is Fred, what might this be an apology for?

How does the poet want the reader to react to the fact her love, 'falls short of the Divine'?

Dove's relationship with her husband was an interracial one and not widely accepted within society. How is this relevant to the poem?

Finish the sentence, 'the key message of the poem is that love is....'
CHALLENGE: 'However, it could be argued that.....'

Explore the juxtaposition of the words within the title.

Why does the speaker believe that 'compact disks and faxes' mean people no longer risk for love?

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Valentine by Carol Ann Duffy

How does the speaker feel an onion is a superior gift to demonstrate their love?

Duffy also wrote a poem called Medusa, where the speaker (a mythological goddess with snakes heads for hair) threatens to turn her lover to stone. How is Valentine similar?

How does the mood of the speaker change in two ways from the loving, generous tone at the start of the poem?

As 'a wobbling photo of grief,' how is love 'wobbling,' within the poem?

Explore the metaphor, 'it is a moon wrapped in brown paper.'

How does the one line alliterated stanza, 'I'm trying to be truthful' act as a volta within the poem?

Duffy's poem *Education for Leisure* caused a huge debate when an exam board decided to withdraw it from an exam syllabus because of a complaint about its contents. How might this poem be controversial?

What misconceptions of love is Duffy trying to highlight to the reader?

Carol Ann Duffy is a feminist, known for writing about unrequited love or the ugly side of love. How is this relevant to Valentine?

'The speaker isn't confirmed as, but could only possibly be a woman.' Do you agree or disagree?

What does the cyclical line of, '..as we are, for as long as we are,' imply about the speaker's love? Give two ideas.

The only alliteration used is, 'cute card or a kissogram.' What might Duffy be implying about clichés (or overused alliteration in poems?!)

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