

Eduqas Poetry Anthology Revision

Challenge Grids Part Two

CHALLENGE GRID

A Wife in London

<p>How does the line, 'by the firelight flicker' add pathos for the reader?</p>	<p>Hardy's poetry and literature focussed upon fate, chance, social constraint. Where can we find evidence of these in the poem?</p>	<p>Why is the line, 'Of meaning it dazes to understand' deliberately structured so that it is difficult to read?</p>	<p>Explore the contrast of light and darkness within the poem.</p>
<p>Explore the use of alliteration in the poem, particular the words beginning with f.</p>	<p>There is a rhyme scheme here but it is disjointed and inconsistent. What ideas does that reflect?</p>	<p>Hardy was highly critical of Victorian society, sharing several views with Dickens and Eliot. How is this relevant to this poem?</p>	<p>Why is the line, 'His hand, whom the worm now knows,' both a) graphic and b) ironic representation of the soldier?</p>
<p>Hardy was interested by the existence of coincidence and fate. Where is this evident within the poem?</p>	<p>Hardy chooses the unusual perspective of the soldier's wife, rather than the front line soldier or a spectator. What effect does this have on the reader's reaction?</p>	<p>Why do you think Hardy chose to entitle each section of the poem? What could each section represent?</p>	<p>Explore the imagery of the line, 'whose webby fold on fold...' Consider the feelings we can connect to a spider's web.</p>

<p>Meaning</p>	<p>Context</p>	<p>Structure</p>	<p>Language</p>
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How many points can you accumulate in twenty minutes? Use short, direct quotations to extend ideas.

CHALLENGE GRID

Death of a Naturalist

Consider the line, 'if I dropped my hand the spawn would clutch it.' Do you think the violent depiction of nature is imagined by the child or real? Argue both sides of the question.

Heaney was born and raised in Ireland. Where do we see hints of this within the poem?

How does the mood change in the second stanza? (If you have complete the verb task, this should help!)

Explore imagery that depicts decay/excrement. Why might the child focus on the negative aspects of nature?

Select eight verbs from the poem (choose from across the entire poem). What emotions do they depict in the speaker?

How is the fascination and curiosity of being a child created within the first stanza?

Which feelings of your own early childhood might Heaney want you to recognise in this poem?

After reading the poem, why do you suppose Heaney chose to entitle it 'the Death of...'? What is lost or dies?

Heaney was interested in rural life and nature, along with its impact on human life. How is this relevant to the poem?

Consider the personification of the, 'angry frogs,' giving 'obscene threats.' Why does the speaker think them angry?

The poem does not use a rhyme scheme. Why might this be? Give two reasons. CHALLENGE: why the use of iambic pentameter?

How is the repeated fricative consonant ('ax' in 'flax' create a sense of foreboding?

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CHALLENGE GRID

HAWK ROOSTING

In your opinion, do you believe that the speaker is a) a dictator b) a hawk or c) someone else?

Hughes stated that, 'Words that will express something of the deep complexity that makes us precisely the way we are.' How does this poem achieve that?

The first stanza uses rhyme but this quickly slips away. What does this rebellion show about the speaker's character?

Why does he feel that the earth requires his, 'inspection'? How does this make him sound as a result?

Explore the imagery used within the lines, 'My manners are tearing off heads- the allotment of death.' Consider the straddle across verses (the previous verse uses enjambment to do this too- why?)

The poem use a dramatic monologue to create an ambiguous speaker. Why do you think the speaker directly addresses the reader?

Hughes was married to famous poet and manic depression sufferer Sylvia Plath. As a result, their relationship was romanticised as idyllic but chaotic. How is the concept of perfection presented in this poem?

Which of the two following words best depicts the speaker? Merciless, misunderstood, superior, perfect, controlling, lonely, unapologetic.

The poem was deemed controversial when published, believed to portray fascism. To what extent do you agree with this viewpoint?

Consider the final line, 'I am going to keep things like this.' Is this a realistic statement? Can anyone have ultimate control?

Why do you suppose the mood changes in the final stanza? The line, 'the sun is behind me,' sounds as though the speaker is distracted. How might this show a different side to his character?

The speaker ensures that the reader knows, 'it took the whole of Creation,' to make him. Can you find other examples of boasting? When do people boast to others in this way?

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CHALLENGE GRID

To Autumn

How is Autumn characterised here? What sort of person might Autumn be? How does this maybe challenge usual connections that we make with Autumn?

Keats was widely criticised by reviewers, perhaps because he did not receive a formal literary education.

Consider the verbs used within the poem- find one from each verse and explain how they show a change in mood. STUCK? Explore, 'swell,' 'drows'd,' and 'mourn.'

How are the senses used within the poem to depict how Keats feels about Autumn? CHALLENGE: why do all other senses disappear to just sound by the end?

Explore the imagery of ripening and growth within the first stanza. How does Keats imply that Autumn is a) a symbol of fertility and b) essential to the other seasons?

Consider the use of the rhetorical question at the start of the final stanza. How does this help to give Autumn a voice?

As a Romanticist, Keats shows a deep appreciation of the beauty in nature within this poem.' To what extent do you agree?

Keats uses the personification of Autumn to create a goddess of nature. Where can you find evidence of this and why do you think he chose this representation?

Keats wrote this ode (devotion to an object to glorify it) after he took a walk. Why might Keats have chosen the less obvious season to romanticise?

What type of music would Autumn sound like, as 'thou hast music too'?

Consider the repeated sibilance within the poem, particularly 's' sounds. What mood does this create? At what point does this seem to stop and why might that be?

Keats hints at Autumn as a sleepy, relaxed state, 'drows'd with the fume of poppies.' What feeling or emotions do we link to this idea? CHALLENGE: why poppies?

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Afternoons

Explore the meaning behind the two final lines. How might these women feel and why?

Larkin sometimes took a pessimistic view of the world and others. How can you link this to the ideas within the poem?

Explore the use of brackets in the final stanza- what type of tone or mood do they help to create? What is Larkin hinting at here about the mothers?

How does the opening line create a particular tone? Give two ideas here.

Explore the use of order within the first stanza; the leaves falling, the trees, the young mothers. How does this contrast or support the ideas within the entire poem?

The poem has a clear three stanza structure but in contrast, the content and vocabulary is not particularly formal. Why use stanzas then? What do they represent?

Larkin led a rather sheltered life; he worked as a librarian for over thirty years and never travelled abroad. Does this mean he wasn't able to make the judgements and observations within the poem? Argue both sides of the question.

How are women presented within the poem. STUCK? Use the lines, 'setting free their children' and 'their beauty has thickened' to start you off.

Larkin enjoyed creating detailed observations from the everyday. How does he use this approach within the poem?

Choose two of the following words that depict the mood of the poem: unfulfilling, indifferent, neglected, false, frustrating, negative, dissatisfied.

How does the enjambment from the second to final stanza hint at defending the people that the speaker describes?

Explore the imagery of the line, 'the hollows of afternoons.' How does Larkin depict time here?

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Dulce et Decorum Est

How does the simile, 'like a devil's sick of sin' portray the feelings of the soldiers?
CHALLENGE: would death be preferable, in Owen's opinion?

Owen never described explicit events in his letters home. How does this help us to understand why he may have written the poem?

Who is speaking in the final two lines of the poem? Give two possible ideas.

Explore the imagery of the lines, 'behind the wagon that we flung him in.' How are the soldiers treated?

Owen drafted, 'gurgling, gargling, googling,' before finally deciding on the word 'guttering' to describe the dying man's sounds. Why might this have been the final choice?

The first stanza could be written by a spectator. How does this perspective change at different points throughout the poem and why might this be?

Owen sought advice from Sassoon when writing this poem. When reading, Sassoon underlined the word, 'ecstasy' with a question mark. Why might that have been? How does the word suit or contrast the emotions of the soldiers?

In your opinion, which stanza would have been most difficult to write?

In letters to his mother, Owen describes the responsibility he felt for soldiers dying as he states, 'I nearly broke down and let myself drown in the water that was now slowly rising over my knees.' How can we see evidence of this guilt within the poem?

Is the old lie that Owen writes about : a) from the government? B) to themselves? C) to home?

How does the use of punctuation within the second stanza change the pace or mood of the poem?

Why does Owen use the simile 'obscene as cancer'?
CHALLENGE: does this effectively capture the horror of the man's death?

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OZYMANDIAS

In your opinion, as a leader, was Ozymandias gracious or contemptuous? Charismatic or conceited? Callous or sympathetic?

Ozymandias was one of Egypt's most famous pharaohs – Ramses II or Ramses the Great. Shelley was critical of royalty and their purpose- how is this evident?

Sonnets were usually used to declare love or idealisation for something. How is this juxtaposed by this poem?

Explore the juxtaposition of the 'colossal wreck.' How is it possible that Ozymandias is both colossal and a wreck, metaphorically speaking?

Consider the inclusion of Ozymandias's voice: '...king of kings: Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!' How is this line a) intimidating or b) laughable?

The speaker is a storyteller and the tale is third hand; the speaker heard it from a traveller who had seen the sculpture. Does this make Ozymandias' reputation just a rumour or notorious?

Shelley married Mary Shelley, author of Frankenstein. How might the greed of men explore in the novel be also explored here?

Finish and develop the sentence: Shelley highlights that power is...

Shelley was a Romanticist, expelled from University for writing about atheism and disowned by his father. How is this a poem about not conforming?

Is Ozymandias portrayed as powerful or vulnerable? Argue both sides of the argument.

The rhyme within the poem is disjointed; like Manhunt, the words are slightly 'off.' How does this reflect the portrayal of Ozymandias?

How does, 'the hand that mocked them,' depict Ozymandias as a leader? Why do you think this is contrasted with, 'the heart that fed'?

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Mamtez Wood

'The poem demonstrates the soldiers' struggle to be remembered and refusal to be forgotten.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Sheers is a Welshman, interested in the struggles that people face trying to live. How is this relevant to the poem?

'The final stanza draws a conclusion to the poem by remembering the fallen soldiers in death.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Explore three words that show repeated ideas of delicate or fragile things; how were the soldiers fragile?

Explore the simile, 'like a wound working a foreign body to the surface...' What is being unearthed? The bodies? Memories? The truth? The enemy's actions?

The lines within the poem vary in length and rhythm, creating a disjointed, disordered effect. What might this reflect? A) the bones of the soldiers or b) the disturbed earth.

The poem is from a collection of poetry entitled Skirrid Hill : the word Skirrid means divorce or separation. How might this link to the ideas within the poem?

Consider the line, 'slipped from their absent tongues;' Does it hint that the soldiers were found as accidentally as they were discarded OR hints at their lack of voice to tell their final stories?

During the battle of the Somme, the 38th Welsh Division was ordered to take Mametz Wood. The objective was finally achieved a week later but over four thousand men were lost. Owen visited the site- why might he have written this poem as a result?

Where is death presented at its most ugly within the poem (don't pick your first idea- it is the most obvious!). What is Sheers showing us about death?

The stanza topics rotate as follows:
land/remains/soldiers/land/re
mains/soldiers. Why might the speaker go round in circles in this way?

How is the metaphor of a 'broken mosaic of bone' and imagery of 'paused mid-dance' disturbing to the reader?

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CHALLENGE GRID

Excerpt from the Prelude

In the entire works of *the Prelude*, the poet chose ordinary events and made them mighty and powerful. How is more mighty within the poem, the children or nature?

Wordsworth described *The Prelude* as "a poem on the growth of my own mind" with "contrasting views of Man, Nature, and Society." How do we see the contrast within the poem?

By using this conversational tone, it is though Wordsworth is telling us the story of his childhood. What is the impact on us as a reader? What does it make us think of?

The line, 'all shod with steel, we hiss'd along the polish'd ice..' How does the sibilance reflect the current mood of the boys?

How does the metaphor of 'Pack of boys, 'loud bellowing,' portray the children as wild as nature itself? CHALLENGE: where is there further evidence of rebellion?

The poem is written in free verse; does this reflect a) the power of nature as free and wild or b) a conversational tone as though recalling a memory to a friend?

Wordsworth was orphaned whilst still at school; his mother dies when he was only eight. Why might this have caused him to want to capture moments of his childhood in poetry?

Why might the sounds of nature- 'the precipices rang aloud,' 'every icy crag tinkled,' be a warning?

Wordsworth grew up in the Lake District and was interested in the power of nature. How is this relevant to the poem?

'The poem shows the respect that Wordsworth held for nature.' To what extent do you agree with this statement?

How do the final lines- particularly the 'distant hills,' sending an 'alien sound of melancholy,' alter the mood of the memory for the reader?

Which verbs within the poem create a sense of energy or excitement? Explore two in detail.

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