

# Revision- Unseen Poetry

- How many poems?
- How many questions?
- What do you need to remember?

# Wordy Wednesday- Unseen Poetry

- How many poems?

Two poems linked by a theme

- How many questions?

Two questions (single poem and comparison)

- What do you need to remember?

Let's look through 7 top tips from the exam board on the next slides...

# Top Tip 1

Read any information given about the poems. There will be an explanation saying what links the poems. It is important to read this and use it to help your understanding.

## Top Tip 2

Read the poems several times. You may like to read both poems through once, then read the first poem several times before writing about it. Then read the second poem several times before writing about it in question 3.2.

# Top Tip 3

Don't panic! Poems are often not very clear on the first reading but if you slow down and think about them, they often become clearer.

There may be a line or section you find less clear than the rest: don't worry, focus on the sections you do understand and often the more difficult sections become easier.

# Top Tip 4

Sometimes, the meaning of a word will be given. There will be an asterisk (\*) and a definition near the poem. This does not mean this is an important section, it simply means the examiner has tried to be helpful by giving you the meaning of a difficult piece of vocabulary.

# Top Tip 5

Thinking time is important. Spend about five minutes annotating the poem to organise your thoughts and ideas. This will involve highlighting or underlining key parts and adding a word or two to note what you may say about it.

# Top Tip 6

Remember that it is your response to the poems that the examiner is interested in. Support what you say with evidence and discuss what some of the details of the poem make you think about. There is no need to get bogged down in terminology – this should support your answer, not lead it.

# Top Tip 7

Ask these questions about your poem:

What is the poem about?

What is it REALLY about?

How do we know?

## Question 3.1

- Spend **20 minutes** on this question (5 reading, 15 writing)
- Lead with **ideas**
- Begin with an **overview**- what is the poem about?
- **Track** through the poem, picking apart stand-out quotations
- Use **terminology** where relevant
- Comment on the **effect** the poem has on you as a reader

**Plan and write your response to question 3.1**

Overall, the poem has a comforting tone and its main message seems to be about the simple importance of love. At the start, the speaker says they have “nothing else to give” but the poem and their love. This implies that the speaker doesn’t have many material possessions, or alternatively, they’ve given everything they have already. Next, the poet uses a simile- “like a warm coat when winter comes” to suggest that the poem and their love will protect them and keep them warm. This is continued throughout the poem with a semantic field of warmth and comfort, such as “thick socks”, “warm your belly” and “scarf for your head”. All of these images build to make me think that love is comforting and cosy. The poet uses repetition of ‘I love you’ after each stanza. This creates a reassuring tone and backs up the simple message of the poem- that love is very powerful. At the end, the tone switches and becomes more negative, but for a positive reason- “when the world outside no longer cares if you live or die”. This creates the impression that the speaker feels sad or possibly lonely in the world, but will always be there for their lover. Overall, this poem makes me feel sympathy for the speaker as they sound sad and lonely. It also makes me think about how love can change a person’s world.

## Question 3.2

- Spend **40 minutes** on this question (5 reading and planning, 35 writing)
- Lead with **comparison of ideas** (e.g. Both poets suggest...)
- Begin with a **comparative overview**- what are the main similarities and differences in the poets' ideas.
- **Track** through the poems, pairing together similar/different quotations and ideas
- Use **terminology** where relevant
- Comment on the **effect** the poem has on you as a reader

**Plan and begin to write your response to question 3.2**