

Analysing Unseen Poems



Read through the poem you have been given.

Consider:

1. Your interpretation - this could be anything from what the poem is about, what you think the poet is saying, how the speaker is feeling etc.
2. One question - is there something you're unsure of? Is there something you're not sure how to interpret?

Unseen Poetry

What do I do?!

LO: To understand what steps to take
when seeing a poem for the first time

To analyse a poem for language,
structure and form

To use subject terminology and comment
on its effect on the reader

Paper 2

- ▶ 45 minutes on Blood Brothers
- ▶ 45 minutes on a poem from the anthology and one from memory
- ▶ 45 minutes on Unseen Poetry

Unseen Poetry

1. 30 minutes on first poem = 24 marks
2. 15 minutes on comparing second poem to first = 8 marks

1. 6 Points made on the poem covering the question AND language, structure and form
2. 4 similarities and differences to the language, structure and form.

V is for vocabulary

- ▶ Find what you think are the three most important words and phrases in the poem.
- ▶ Why do they strike you as important? Connotations? What do they make you think of/feel/imagine?

I is for Imagery

- ▶ Can you see any metaphors, simile, striking visual images in the poem? Anything that paints a picture.
- ▶ What do they make you think of/imagine? Does this link with the vocabulary in any way?

S is for Structure

- ▶ **What is the poem made up of? Stanzas or all one? Any rhyme or rhythm? Does it add anything? Why has the poet chosen it?**
- ▶ **Anything else interesting structurally? Isolated lines? Patterns of repetition? Enjambment? Caesura?**
- ▶ **What are they there for?**

I is for Intention

- ▶ **Use this for your conclusion.**
- ▶ **Why on earth did this poet write this poem? What message is he or she trying to give you about: life, love, nature, the universe, society, conflict, power human nature?**
- ▶ **What three key important things can we take away from the poem?**

T is for Tone

- ▶ If this poem was a person what mood would they be in?
- ▶ If this poem was a party, what would the atmosphere be like when you walked in?
- ▶ Describe it in 3 words.

The poet makes interesting choices of **vocabulary**. For example in the poem, the poet uses words such as and phrases such as which convey a picture of/ a mood of/ a feeling of to the reader.

In the poem the poet creates strong visual **images** by using metaphors/similes/symbols such as These paint a picture of in the reader's imagination causing them to think about/consider/see A second interesting image is when the poet describes using which leads the reader to picture and imagine

The poet has also made some interesting choices in how they chose to **structure** their work. In the poem the poem is organised into This creates a feeling or a rhythm which we might connect with. We also see patterns in the poem such as the repetition of This might emphasize for the reader.

The **tone** of the poem is one of This is suggested by the overall feelings of and creates an impression of for the reader.

As readers we are left with the feeling that the poet is giving us a clear message about The poet focuses on the issues of, and chooses to highlight The poet seems to have the **intention** of giving us a clear and precise picture of leaving us to think about

Poetry Analysis - Group

- ▶ You have 10 minutes to highlight and annotate your poem.

Challenge Yourself!
Can you think of an alternative interpretation of a word/phrase/technique?
Could it mean something else?

Consider:

- V - Vocabulary (Effective words)
- I - Imagery (Language techniques)
- S - Structure - line lengths, punctuation, rhyme, rhythm -
- I - Intention - why has the poet written this?
- T - Tone - how do you think the speaker is feeling? Why?

You are holding up a ceiling
with both arms. It is very heavy,
but you must hold it up, or else
it will fall down on you. Your arms
are tired, terribly tired,
and, as the day goes on, it feels
as if either your arms or the ceiling
will soon collapse.

But then,
unexpectedly,
something wonderful happens:
Someone,
a man or a woman,
walks into the room
and holds their arms up
to the ceiling beside you.

So you finally get
to take down your arms.
You feel the relief of respite,
the blood flowing back
to your fingers and arms.
And when your partner's arms tire,
you hold up your own
to relieve him again.

And it can go on like this
for many years
without the house falling.

27:1

In 'A Marriage', how does the poet present ideas about being married?

► Consider:

- V - Vocabulary (Effective words)
- I - Imagery (Language techniques)
- S - Structure - line lengths, punctuation, rhyme, rhythm -
- I - Intention - why has the poet written this?
- T - Tone - how do you think the speaker is feeling? Why?

27:2

In both 'A Marriage' and 'Valentine', the writers present ideas about relationships.

What are the similarities and/or differences between the methods the poets use to present these ideas?

Not a red rose or a satin heart.

I give you an onion.
It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.
It promises light
like the careful undressing of love.

Here.
It will blind you with tears
like a lover.
It will make your reflection
a wobbling photo of grief.

I am trying to be truthful.

Not a cute card or a kissogram.

I give you an onion.
Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,
possessive and faithful
as we are,
for as long as we are.

Take it.
Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding-ring,
if you like.

Lethal.
Its scent will cling to your fingers,
cling to your knife.

So, what links can we make?

- ▶ Remember methods!

Have a go:

In both 'A Marriage' and 'Valentine', the writers present ideas about relationships.

What are the similarities and/or differences between the methods the poets use to present these ideas?