

**Assessment: Write an analysis of one given poem from the anthology (45 minutes).  
It will be one of the following 4 poems. You will have a copy of the poem in the assessment.**

**Island Man, by Grace Nichols**

*A poem about a man who has moved to London from the Caribbean. The poet uses metaphors and personification to make the island sound beautiful. The beauty of the island contrasts to the dull nature of London.*

**Context:** This poem is by Grace Nichols. She was born in Guyana in the Caribbean and moved to London.

**Key quotes:** “his small emerald island”                      “island man heaves himself/another London day”

**Nettles, by Vernon Scannell**

*A poem about a man and his son. His son falls into nettles and gets stung. His father chops them down but they keep returning. The father feels sad that he is unable to stop his son being hurt. The writer uses imagery to compare the nettles to war. The poem follows a regular ABAB rhyme scheme.*

**Context:** This poem is by Vernon Scannell. He fought in WW2.

**Key quotes:** “That regiment of spite behind the shed”                      “My son would often feel sharp wounds again”

**Refugee Blues, by WH Auden**

*A poem about the discrimination that refugees face from local communities. It explores how people might assume that they are criminals and that there is no space for them in the country.*

**Context:** Auden wrote the poem in 1939 at the beginning of WW2. He had been living in Germany when the government started discriminating against the Jewish population.

**Key quotes:** “ Yet there’s no place for us, my dear, yet there’s no place for us”  
“If we let them in, they will steal our daily bread”

**Nothing Gold Can Stay, by Robert Frost**

*A poem about the beauty of nature. The poet uses metaphors to show how the beautiful colours of spring can’t stay forever but we appreciate it more because it doesn’t last.*

**Context:** This poem is by Robert Frost. He wrote pastoral poetry.

**Key quotes:** “Nature’s first green is gold”                      “Nothing gold can stay”

**Key vocabulary**

**Definitions**

Metaphor	A figure of speech used to compare one thing to another by saying it <i>is</i> something else
Simile	A figure of speech used to compare one thing to another by saying it is <i>like</i> or <i>as</i> something else
Personification	Giving human characteristics to an object
Structure	How a poem is organised or sequenced
Stanza	A verse of a poem
Romanticism	Art and literature that emphasises the importance of nature, the individual and emotions
Pastoral	Associated with country life and nature
Message	The point a writer is making through their poem/writing
Freedom	the state of being able and allowed to make choices for yourself; freedom from oppression
Criticises	when a writer challenges a particular idea

**Skills needed for the unit:**

- ✓ Reading & annotating poetry
- ✓ Identifying language techniques and structural devices
- ✓ Exploring connotations of language

- ✓ Writing an analysis of language and structure
- ✓ Analysing the effect of a text on the reader
- ✓ Understand the significance of social, historical & cultural context

## Y7 Poetry Knowledge Organiser – People and Places