

Y9 BEING HUMAN POETRY: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

Key Words

- **Connotation:** an idea or feeling that a word invokes in addition to its literal or primary meaning
- **Literal:** taking words in their usual or most basic sense without metaphor or allegory
- **Irony:** the expression of meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite, typically for humorous or emphatic effect
- **Oxymoron:** a figure of speech in which apparently contradictory terms appear in conjunction
- **Imperatives:** a command or instruction, make a request, or offer advice; tell people what to do.
- **Enjambment:** the continuation of a sentence without a pause beyond the end of a line, couplet, or stanza
- **Possessive:** demanding someone's total attention and love.
- **Remorse:** deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed.
- **Modal verbs:** verbs that express necessity or possibility including: *must, shall, will, should, would, can, could, may, and might.*
- **Elegy:** a poem of serious reflection, typically a lament for the dead

Key Skills

- **Read, understand and annotate** poems about life
- Apply **knowledge of the context** to analysis and interpretation
- **Identify and discuss** poets' use of **terminology**
- Write **analytically** about language
- **Explore connotations of language/structure**
- Learn **unseen poetry** skills

Help/Support

- [The poet] suggests that ...
- The line/phrase "....." tells the reader that.....
- This implies/suggests/explores the idea that.....
- The word/phrase/image "...." shows/implies/suggests
- [The poet] may have wanted to show that.....

Essential information

<p>Metaphors by Sylvia Plath This is an autobiographical poem exploring the physical and emotional upheaval caused by a pregnancy. <i>"This loaf's big with its yeasty rising", "Boarded the train there's no getting off"</i></p>	<p>The Victory by Anne Stephenson: This is a poem exploring a mother's emotions following the birth of her child. <i>"Blue as a bruise", "You sting with bladed cries", "Scary knot of desires"</i></p>
<p>Brothers by Andrew Forster: A poem exploring a child's yearning to grow up and the effect this has on his sibling. <i>"Saddled with you", "you windmilled home", "doing like grown-ups do."</i></p>	<p>My Father Thought It by Simon Armitage: A poem exploring the complications in a relationship between a child and his father as he yearns for independence. <i>"became a wound, and wept", "my own voice breaking like a tear, released like water"</i></p>
<p>Hour by Carol Ann Duffy: A poem exploring the curious effect that love has on time. <i>"Love's time's beggar", "we are millionaires", "love spins gold, gold, gold from straw"</i></p>	<p>Ending by Gavin Ewart: A poem that maps the changes in a romantic relationship breaking down. <i>"cools like a congealing chop", "running slow and running late"</i></p>
<p>Love after Love by Derek Walcott: An unusual love poem that focuses on the importance of loving yourself following the breakdown of a relationship. <i>"Feast on your own life", "to the stranger who has loved you"</i></p>	<p>Praise Song for my Mother by Grace Nichols: a traditional African poem of praise from a daughter to her mother. <i>"water", "moon", "sunrise", "replenishing, replenishing"</i></p>
<p>Shave by Francesc Parcersas: A poem about coming terms with the process of ageing. <i>"Unchanged yet strange", "forced to stretch your flabby skin", begun to dissolve"</i></p>	<p>Warning by Jenny Joseph: A poem that celebrates the privileges of growing old. <i>"I shall wear purple", "learn to spit", "But now we must have clothes that keep us dry"</i></p>
<p>Should You Die First by Annabelle Despart: This poem grapples with the pain of loss and trying to hold onto those you love. <i>"Let me at least collect your smells as specimens", "These archives I shall carry into exile"</i></p>	<p>Not an Elegy by Danez Smith: A poem written about discrimination and brutality against Black people. <i>"I am sick of writing this poem", "ordinary, black dead thing", "I at least demand a song"</i></p>