

Unseen Homework Overview

	Week	Poem	Question
1	-	'Lisa' by David Hernandez	How does the poet convey the narrator's feelings about Lisa?
2	-	'Echo' by Walter de la Mare	How does the poet create a mysterious atmosphere in the poem?
3	-	'Composed upon Westminster Bridge' by William Wordsworth	What are the poet's feelings about the city and what methods does he use to put these emotions across?
4	-	'Condolence' by Dorothy Parker	How does the poet present the different ways people react to death?
5	-	'Walking Away' by Cecil Day Lewis	How does the poet present the narrator's feelings towards his son?
6	-	'Accident and Emergency' by Nessa O'Mahoney	What does the poem suggest about the nature of old age and youth?

TASK 1 - read the poem and respond to the question below. Ensure you plan your response in the space provided.

Q1 How does the poet convey the narrator's feelings about Lisa? What methods does the poet use to get these feelings across?

Lisa

Last night I traced with my finger
the long scar on my love's stomach
as if I was following a road on a map.
I heard the scream of tires, saw the flash

of chrome, her six-year-old body
a rag doll bleeding at the seams.
It is foolish of me to wish
I was there before it happened, to reach

back thirty years, clasp her small hand
and pull her away from that speeding car
that turned her organs into bruised fruit.
How easily she could have missed

her seventh birthday, the lit candles waiting
for her to blow out their tiny flames.
How easily I could've spent last night
in a crowded bar instead,

my shoulders brushing against strangers,
a man on the jukebox
singing his heart out to a woman
with the prettiest eyes he's ever seen.

David Hernandez

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TASK 2 - read the poem and respond to the question below. Ensure you plan your response in the space provided.

Q1 How does the poet create a mysterious atmosphere in the poem? What methods does he use to achieve this?

Echo

'Who called?' I said, and the words
Through the whispering glades,
Hither, thither, baffled the birds --
 'Who called? Who called?'

The leafy boughs on high
 Hissed in the sun;
The dark air carried my cry
 Faintly on:

Eyes in the green, in the shade,
 In the motionless brake,
Voices that said what I said,
 For mockery's sake:

'Who cares?' I bawled through my tears;
 The wind fell low:
In the silence, 'Who cares? Who cares?'
 Wailed to and fro.

Walter de la Mare

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TASK 3 - read the poem and respond to the question below. Ensure you plan your response in the space provided.

Q1 What are the poet's feelings about the city and what methods does he use to put these emotions across?

Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802

Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This City now doth, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;
All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
And all that mighty heart is lying still!

William Wordsworth

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TASK 4 - read the poem and respond to the question below. Ensure you plan your response in the space provided.

Q1 How does the poet present the different ways people react to death?
What methods does she use to present these ideas?

Condolence

They hurried here, as soon as you had died,
Their faces damp with haste and sympathy,
And pressed my hand in theirs, and smoothed my knee,
And clicked their tongues, and watched me, mournful-eyed.
Gently they told me of that Other Side-
How, even then, you waited there for me,
And what ecstatic meeting ours would be.
Moved by the lovely tale, they broke, and cried.

And when I smiled, they told me I was brave,
And they rejoiced that I was comforted,
And left to tell of all the help they gave.
But I had smiled to think how you, the dead,
So curiously preoccupied and grave,
Would laugh, could you have heard the things they said.

Dorothy Parker

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Approaching an Unseen Poem

1. **Read the question.**
2. **Highlight key words** in the question.
3. **Read the poem** once without writing on it.
4. **Make notes around the title**, relating to the question.
5. **Reread the poem**, highlighting any **interesting key techniques** you see.
6. Find **3 key quotations/techniques** to talk about in your answer – if you are stuck, try the first and last lines. Write notes around them.

So, you're in the exam...

- 1) **Read the poem through twice**, then read the question and make sure you know what it is asking you.
- 2) **Underline/highlight two key lines** which exemplify the poet's key ideas, which answer the question and which include language techniques.
- 3) Don't bother with an introduction. You haven't got much time so get straight into the analysis.
- 4) **Write one paragraph for each of the quotes** you have picked out. In each paragraph, make sure you answer the question, identify/analyse techniques and consider different interpretations.
- 5) **Write one paragraph about structure**. This could be acknowledging punctuation (or lack of), rhyme, rhythm, stanzas, etc. Link back to the question and consider how the poet has used structure to communicate ideas/meaning.
- 6) **Write a quick conclusion** in which you sum up what you have said and link back to the question.

