

## The Poems:

1	<b>'Whoso list to hount'</b> Thomas Wyatt (c.1530)	Petrarchan sonnet that reveals the frustrations of unrequited love. Explores issues of power and gender, showing how powerless men really are, despite their bravado. Wyatt reveals how exhausting the pursuit of love can be.
2	<b>'Sonnet 116'</b> William Shakespeare (1609)	Explores the nature of true love. The poem argues for love's strength in the face of challenges, revealing how it is only true love if it remains unchanged.
3	<b>'The Flea'</b> John Donne (1633)	Dramatic lyric which explores the nature of lust. By using an amusing and grotesque metaphysical conceit, Donne reveals how laughable and desperate male desire can appear.
4	<b>'To His Coy Mistress'</b> Andrew Marvell (1681)	Dramatic monologue which explores the relationship between time, love and desire. The speaker's arguments reflect the metaphysical poets' mantras of 'carpe diem' and 'memento mori.' Marvell reveals how limited time and a fear of dying can intensify the feelings of love and desire.
5	<b>'The Scrutiny'</b> Richard Lovelace (1642)	Dramatic monologue which reflects the typical polyamorist values of the Cavalier poets. The speaker's dismissive attitudes towards women and commitment seem misogynistic, though it was likely written mainly to amuse the court. Sadly, Lovelace reveals how male lust can be almost insatiable.
6	<b>'A Song (Absent from Thee)'</b> John Wilmot (1691)	Satirical ballad that mocks the idea of love and commitment, typical of the Cavalier poets. Although the speaker's tone seems pained and in despair, his acceptance of infidelity undermines any genuine devotion he seems to show. Wilmot reveals how, for some, commitment itself is just another tool to exploit in the selfish pursuit of lust.
7	<b>'The Garden of Love'</b> William Blake (1789)	Allegorical poem that explores the conflict between sexual freedom, nature and organised religion. Through allusions to the Garden of Eden, Blake reveals the frustrations and anger that comes from prohibiting our natural instincts.

## The Poems:

8	<b>'Song (Ae Fond Kiss)'</b> Robert Burns (1791)	Reveals the pain of separation. The speaker's deep affection for the addressee (Agnes 'Nancy' McLehose) is only matched by the sorrow he feels at their parting. Burns shows us how inseparable the bond is between love and loss.
9	<b>'She Walks In Beauty'</b> Lord Byron (1814)	Lyric poem which explores the nature of attraction. His focus on contrasts throughout the poem reflects an appreciation for the complexities of the opposite sex. Byron reveals a love that goes beyond the superficial.
10	<b>'La Belle Dame Sans Merci'</b> John Keats (1819)	Ballad which explores the pain of rejection and abandonment. The medieval style of the poem, with its doomed, chivalrous knight and exotic femme fatale, reveals both the conflict within relationships and the perils of desire.
11	<b>'Remember'</b> Christina Rossetti (1849)	Petrarchan sonnet which explores the relationship between love and loss. The poem argues for the importance of memory, but not at the expense of happiness.
12	<b>'The Ruined Maid'</b> Thomas Hardy (1866)	Satirical poem which explores the relationships between sexuality, morality and class. He highlights the plight of poor Victorian women and leaves us questioning the true cost of social mobility at this time.
13	<b>'At an Inn'</b> Thomas Hardy (1893)	A poem about assumptions, appearances and unrequited love. Ironically, the speaker's genuine longing for the woman is contrasted with the presumptions of the patrons and with the reality of the relationship. Hardy reveals the complex relationship between who we are, who we seem to be, and who we want to be.
14	<b>'Non Sum Qualis'</b> Ernest Dowson (1984)	Explores the pain of unrequited love. The speaker's hedonistic exploits mask the true sorrow of a love that is unable to be forgotten. Dowson reveals the futility of any pursuit except true love.

## Key Vocabulary:

1	<b>Petrarchan sonnet</b>	14 line poem split into an octave and sestet with a volta and set rhyme scheme.
2	<b>Shakespearean sonnet</b>	14 line poem split into three quatrains and a rhyming couplet with a set rhyme scheme.
3	<b>Metaphysical conceit</b>	Analogy between one entity's spiritual qualities and an object, e.g. the flea in Donne's poem.
4	<b>Lyric</b>	Expresses a subjective, personal point of view.
5	<b>Dramatic monologue</b>	Speech or narrative from an imagined persona.
6	<b>Ballad</b>	A poem or song narrating short story in stanzas.
7	<b>Satire</b>	Vices, follies and abuses are held up to ridicule with the intent of shaming individuals/society.
8	<b>Song</b>	Musical composition intended to be performed by the human voice.
9	<b>Allegory</b>	A poem that is used to deliver a broader message about real-world issues and occurrences.
10	<b>Narrative poetry</b>	A form of poetry that tells a story, usually written in metered verse.

## Context: Literary Eras/Movements

1	<b>Renaissance</b>	A cultural and artistic movement dating from the late 15 <sup>th</sup> to early 17 <sup>th</sup> century.
2	<b>Jacobean</b>	Reign of James I of England: 1603-1625. Successor to Elizabeth I and the Elizabethan era.
3	<b>Metaphysical poets</b>	Group of 17 <sup>th</sup> century English poets whose work was characterised by the inventive use of conceits.
4	<b>Cavalier poets</b>	Group of English poets called Cavaliers due to their loyalty to Charles I during the Civil Wars. Often produced elegant lyrics.
5	<b>Romanticism</b>	An artistic, literary, musical and intellectual movement towards the end of the 18 <sup>th</sup> century.
6	<b>Pre-Raphaelite</b>	Group of English painters, poets and art critics founded in 1848 and who opposed the dominance of the British Royal Academy.
7	<b>Victorian</b>	The period of Queen Victoria's reign – 1837-1901 approx. Characterised by a class-based society and industrialisation.
8	<b>Decadent</b>	Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century artistic and literary movement, characterised by excess and artificiality.

## Themes

1	<b>Romantic love</b>	Intense attraction that often involves the idolisation of the other, within an erotic context.
2	<b>Lust and passion</b>	Presented as reasons to flout social expectations or as reasons why fidelity/monogamy is not always possible.
3	<b>Time</b>	Presented as the enemy of love or love is presented as immune to the effects of time.
4	<b>Social expectations</b>	Often presented as a reason why a relationship cannot happen or as something to be flouted in the face of strong passion.
5	<b>Death</b>	Presented as a barrier to love or as something that love is strong enough to withstand.