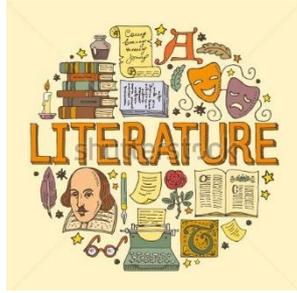


# GCSE English Literature



*You HAVE to sit this to get your English Language grade.  
This will help you know the texts for the Literature but just do your best!*

## **Paper 1 – 15<sup>th</sup> May (am) 1 hr 45 mins**

### **Section A -Shakespeare – Macbeth**

- 1 question
- Bit of information + extract – use this if you can
- Question about that extract + whole text – use this question to write as much as you can about it!

### **Section B - 19<sup>th</sup> Century text – A Christmas Carol**

- 1 question
- Bit of information + extract – use this if you can
- Question about that extract + whole text – use this question to write as much as you can about it!

## **Paper 2 – 23rd May (am) 2 hr 15 mins**

### **Section A - Drama – An Inspector Calls**

- 2 questions – JUST DO 1. The first should be about a character.

### **Section B – Poetry Anthology**

- Love + Relationships
- 1 poem from the booklet – printed. Use this! Bring in 2<sup>nd</sup> you have read if can!

### **Section C – Unseen Poetry**

- You will be given 2 poems to answer on.
- 1 question on the FIRST poem
- 2<sup>nd</sup> question on the two poems together – compare + contrast

## An Inspector Calls

### **Characters**

- Mr and Mrs Birling
- Their children – Sheila + Eric Birling
- Sheila's finance – Gerald Croft
- The Inspector
- Eva Smith / Daisy Renton – lower class girl who dies (changes her name during life – not seen in the play)

### **Plotline**

- England 1912
- The Birling family are a strong capitalist family (concerned about making their business stronger + getting richer)
- A police Inspector arrives with news of a girl's suicide.
- He goes through each member of the Birling family to show each of their actions have had an impact on her.
- His aim is to make them think in a more socialist way (concerned about welfare of all)
- However, only the younger members of the family recognise what they have done and change their viewpoints.
- The play ends with another Inspector about to arrive to show that if people don't change, the same thing will continue to happen.....

### **Mr Birling**

- Wants to impress his daughter's finance as he is from a wealthy family
- Doesn't have a good relationship with his son Eric
- Is always more concerned about improving his Business
- Does not see that firing Eva despite her reasonable request was wrong

### **Mrs Birling**

- Is very distant from her children
- Runs a charity but refused to help Eva/Daisy when she was pregnant as thought she not important enough
- Doesn't see that it was wrong to judge her

### **Sheila Birling**

- Starts off very self-involved due to her engagement
- Had Eva fired as she thought Eva was laughing at her when she was angry –took this out on her
- Recognises this was wrong + tries to persuade her family their actions were wrong

### **Gerald Croft**

- Had an affair with Eva/Daisy when with Sheila
- Did show her kindness + looked after her but relationship on his terms
- Was sorry for what he did but not enough to change his ways
- He went looking for evidence Inspector not real

### **Eric Birling**

- Starts off very self-involved – more focused on alcohol
- Had an affair with Eva/Daisy + got her pregnant (why she went to charity)
- Despite stealing money from his family to give her, sees actions wrong – like Sheila changes his views

### **Inspector**

- Comes to question family – wants to get them to understand what they have done
- Represents the writer's view that everyone should look after each other
- Gives them warning if don't change their ways, the world will not be a good place

## **Macbeth**

### **Characters**

- Macbeth + his wife Lady Macbeth
- Witches – make predictions which Macbeth acts on
- King Duncan – killed by Macbeth + Lady Macbeth
- Banquo – Macbeth's best friend – who he kills as paranoid
- Macduff – Macbeth murders family as paranoid – kills Macbeth
- Malcolm – Duncan's son, the rightful King

### **Plot Line**

- -The witches plan to meet Macbeth
- -A traitor against King Duncan has been killed – Duncan has been so pleased with Macbeth's bravery he is going to give him a new title
- The Witches predict to Macbeth he will be the King and Banquo's sons will be kings. Macbeth knows killing the King is wrong but is already thinking about it.
- He is then given his new title which means he has more reason to believe the witches.
- He has written to tell his wife who instantly begins planning to murder the King so Macbeth can become King. She calls on spirits to take away her feelings to help her do so.
- Despite knowing it is wrong, Macbeth goes along with Lady Macbeth's plan and is convinced after seeing a dagger and goes through with the murder.
- After he is cross at what he has done but his wife takes control again.
- Everyone is shocked at the murder – when Macbeth draws too much attention to himself his wife covers for him again.
- Macbeth is then made King but this starts him wondering what will happen to him next.
- Without telling his wife, he plans to kill Banquo + his son so the witches' words can't come true.
- After doing so, he acts concerned why Banquo is not at the Banquet. He then sees Banquo's ghost which terrifies him with his wife having to take control again.

- After visiting the witches again, who make prophecies about how he will die, he plans to kill Macduff and his family. Again, he doesn't tell his wife and shows no emotion.
- Lady Macbeth's actions are catching up on her – her guilt is making her sleepwalk, she starts to lose her mind + kills herself.
- Macbeth has also lost all hope about life – Macduff comes back to get revenge on him for killing his family. He has gathered an army with Duncan's son Malcolm, the rightful King who defeat Macbeth. Malcolm is crowned king.

### **Macbeth**

- Starts off loyal to King Duncan – has been called 'noble' + 'brave'
- Knows their plans to kill are wrong – 'We shall proceed no further'
- Lets his wife control him as he doesn't want to look less of a man
- Loses all emotion as he becomes more used to killing and hiding emotions
- This all catches up with him – life holds no meaning anymore 'Out, out brief candle, life is but a walking shadow'

### **Lady Macbeth**

- Does not act as a quiet woman as expected
- Takes control of her husband's actions – plans the murder and covers for him after
- Calls on spirits to get rid of her female qualities – 'unsex me'
- Persuades him to act false 'look like the innocent flower but be the serpent underneath'
- Relationship breaks down as Macbeth starts killing without telling her
- Her guilt catches up with her as she can't get over what they have done + still sees blood on her hands 'out, out damned spot'

### **Banquo**

- Used as a contrast to Macbeth – remains loyal to the King + tells Macbeth not to trust the witches

### **King Duncan**

- Rightful King = would have been seen as given role from God
- Ironic as trusts Macbeth but trust is betrayed
- Contrast Macbeth as he is the King from God – is associated with positive + heavenly images but Macbeth is associated with darkness + evilness

### **Malcolm**

- Duncan's son – at end is made rightful King as his father was King – another contrast to Macbeth

### **Macduff**

- Also contrast to Macbeth as really upset at death of King
- Defends the rightful King
- Is very upset at news of family death whereas Macbeth loses his emotion

## Witches

- Sign of evil – Macbeth places his trust in them despite fact they don't tell him full truths

## Key Ideas

- Role reversal between Macbeth + Lady Macbeth – she acts more in control than he does
- Importance of Rightful King – Divine Right of Kings means God decides King. Macbeth goes against God by killing King
- Rightful order is resolved at end
- Lady Macbeth contrast from how women are supposed to act – is associated with killing + being false to others

## A Sign of Four

### Plotline

- Told by Dr John Watson, Sherlock's best friend
- **Sherlock** is taking drugs to keep his mind active when doesn't have a crime. Is easily bored + won't listen when Watson tries to get him to stop.
- **Mary Morstan** brings them mystery that her father has disappeared but she has been sent expensive pearls for years + now a note to meet her to explain what has happened which Sherlock + Watson say will go with her
- They meet **Thaddeus Sholto**, a nervous man. His father, **Major Sholto**, knew Mary's father, **Captain Morstan**, when in the army in India together.
- He tells them that Captain Morstan died during a fight about how to divide treasure they found in India. His father, Major Sholto also died after seeing someone in the house and didn't tell them where the treasure was. However, his twin brother **Bartholomew** has found it + they are going to share it with Mary.
- However, when they get to Bartholomew's house, someone has killed him + taken the treasure.
- The police- **Jones**- appear useless at examining the scene but Sherlock recognises there is a set of small footprints + that of a wooden leg – something which Major Sholto had been scared of....
- They use a dog to follow the scent + by overhearing conversations + using his homeless team of children – The Baker Street Irregulars - figure out that the wooden legged man + a small, misshapen man have planned to escape by boat.
- They work together with the police to chase the boat. The misshapen man, **Tonga**, is killed when he goes to shoot but they arrest the wooden legged man, **Jonathan Small**.
- They discover he lived in India + in the war teamed up with 3 other men to make the 'Sign of Four'. They killed a man to get the Agra Treasure but were arrested for it. He tries to use the money to get Sholto + Morstan to help him escape but Sholto stole it and brought it back to England. Small had been trying to get revenge by taking it back.
- Watson, who had been developing feelings for Mary, brings the treasure to her. However, Small has thrown it away. Now that there is nothing stopping them get together (it won't look like he is taking advantage) they declare their love and plan to get married although Sherlock can't understand why!

### **Sherlock**

- Represents lack of emotion – more focused on solving crimes. Doesn't think 'emotion' should get in the way of 'logic'
- Uses drugs, legal in Victorian times, to keep his mind active when he doesn't have a crime to solve
- Is extremely intelligent – his mind works very fast to put clues together, remember information + has a range of strategies to help him solve crimes
- Solving crimes is his 'highest reward'

### **Watson**

- Story from his viewpoint to give us insight into Sherlock's thoughts
- He represents love + emotion – see his attraction to Mary early on, wants to 'comfort' + 'protect' her
- Sees treasure as a 'barrier' – has good morals as doesn't want to be seen to take advantage of her
- Loyal to Sherlock throughout + is happy at end everything worked out for both of them

### **Athelney Jones**

- Police man – used as contrast to Sherlock as not very skilled at job
- Shows people did not have a good level of trust in police
- Contradicts himself by saying uses 'common sense' not 'theories' but then just makes up theories rather than use evidence which Sherlock shows him
- Recognises needs Sherlock's help + Sherlock lets him take the credit for the work as he doesn't want it

### **Sholtos + Captain Morstan**

- Show us negative impacts from stealing treasure – both left dead from it
- Has ruined their friendship – contrast from Watson + Sherlock
- Thaddeus only one who tries to share the money properly – contrast to his brother who doesn't want to

### **Mary Morstan**

- Represents how women supposed to act – pure, innocent + reliant on men
- Good morals – is happy to be with Watson at the end rather than have the treasure

### **Key Points**

- Sherlock's abilities (contrast to police!), his lack of emotion + focus on case
- Watson's emotions + feelings – contrast to Sherlock + relationship with Mary in subplot
- Impact of treasure – negative outcome to those who try to get it

## Love and Relationship Poems

### **1 – Winter Swans**

*The clouds had given their all -  
**two days of rain** and then a break  
in which we walked,*

*the waterlogged earth  
gulping for breath at our feet  
as we skirted the lake, **silent and apart,***

*until the **swans came** and stopped us  
with a show of tipping in unison.  
As if rolling weights down their bodies to their heads*

*they halved themselves in the dark water,  
icebergs of white feather, paused before returning again  
like boats righting in rough weather.*

*'They mate for life' you said as they left,  
porcelain over the stilling water. I didn't reply  
but as we moved on through the afternoon light,*

*slow-stepping in the lake's shingle and sand,  
**I noticed our hands, that had, somehow,**  
**swum the distance between us***

*and folded, one over the other,  
like a pair of wings settling after flight.*

#### **What does it mean?**

- Couple have had an argument – negative at start of poem
- See the swans + admire their beauty. They are a reminder of love
- The couple make up + are reunited

#### **Romantic Love**

**Starts negative – contrast as ends positive**

## 2 - When We Two Parted

*In **silence and tears**  
Half broken-hearted  
To sever for years,  
**Pale grew thy cheek and cold,**  
**Colder thy kiss;**  
Truly that hour foretold  
Sorrow to this.*

*The dew of the morning  
Sank chill on my brow -  
It felt like the warning  
Of what I feel now.  
**Thy vows are all broken,**  
And light is thy fame;  
I hear thy name spoken,  
And share in its shame.*

*They name thee before me.  
A knell in mine ear;  
A shudder come o'er me -  
Why wert thou so dear?  
They knew not I knew thee.  
Who knew thee too well -  
Long, long shall I rue thee,  
Too deeply to tell.*

*In secret we met -  
**In silence I grieve,**  
That thy heart could forget,  
Thy spirit deceive.  
If I should meet thee  
After long years,  
How should I greet thee?  
With **silence and tears.***

**What does it mean?**

- The couple are splitting up – there is no emotion left in the relationship
- He is not happy about this + is upset by it
- He thinks that he will never get over the relationship at all

**Romantic Relationship – negative – they are splitting up.**

### 3 - Neutral Tones

We stood by a pond that **winter day**,  
And the sun was white, as though chidden of God,  
And a few leaves lay on the starving sod;  
They had fallen from an **ash, and were gray.**

Your eyes on me were as eyes that rove  
Over tedious riddles of years ago;  
And some words played between us to and fro  
On which lost the more by our love.

The smile on your mouth was the **deadest thing**  
Alive enough to have strength to die;  
And a grin of bitterness swept thereby  
**Like an ominous bird a-wing...**

Since then, keen lessons that **love deceives**,  
And wrings with wrong, have shaped to me  
Your face, and the God-curst sun, and a tree,  
And a pond edged with **grayish leaves.**

#### What does it mean?

- The couple are ending their relationship as there is no feelings or emotions left in it
- The speaker is upset by it ending + doesn't know how to move on from this

Romantic relationship but negative as they are splitting up

### 4 – The Farmer's Bride

Three summers since I **chose a maid**,  
**Too young** maybe-but more's to do  
At harvest-time that a bide and woo.  
**When us was wed she turned afraid**  
Of love and me and all things human;  
Like the shut of winter's day  
Her smile went out, and 'twadn't a woman-  
More like a little frightened fay.  
One night, in the Fall, **she runned away.**

"Out 'mong the sheep, her be," they said,  
Should properly have been abed;  
But sureenough she wadn't there  
Lying awake with her wide brown stare.  
So over seven-acre field and up-along across the down

*We chased her, flying like a hare  
Before out lanterns. To Church-Town  
All in a shiver and a scare  
**We caught her, fetched her home at last  
And turned the key upon her, fast.***

*She does the work about the house  
As well as most, but like a mouse:  
Happy enough to cheat and play  
With birds and rabbits and such as they,  
So long as men-folk keep away  
"Not near, not near!" her eyes beseech  
When one of us comes within reach.  
The woman say that beasts in stall  
Look round like children at her call.  
**I've hardly heard her speak at all.**  
Shy as a leveret, swift as he,  
Straight and slight as a young larch tree,  
Sweet as the first wild violets, she,  
To her wild self. But what to me?*

*The short days shorten and the oaks are brown,  
The blue smoke rises to the low grey sky,  
One leaf in the still air falls slowly down,  
A magpie's spotted feathers lie  
An the black earth spread white with rime,  
The berries redden up to Christmas-time.  
What's Christmas-time without there be  
Some other in the house than we!*

*She sleeps up in the attic there  
Alone, poor maid. **`Tis but a stair  
Betwixt us.** Oh! my God! the down,  
The soft young down of her, the brown,  
The brown of her-her eyes, her hair, her hair!*

**What does it mean?**

- A farmer has got married to a young girl but she is very anxious and afraid.
- She tries to run away but the men catch up and bring her back home.
- She is happier around the animals but not people.
- Time passes but the relationship doesn't improve.
- His frustrations are growing at the end as she is so close to him but they have a very distant relationship.

**Shows us the control of the man in the relationship – she has no voice or say in what happens.**

**Romantic relationship but negative – controlling marriage.**

## 5 - Walking Away

*It is eighteen years ago, almost to the day –  
A sunny day with **leaves just turning**,  
The touch-lines new-ruled – since I watched you play  
Your first game of football, then, **like a satellite**  
**Wrenched from its orbit, go drifting away***

*Behind a scatter of boys. I can see  
You walking away from me towards the school  
With the pathos of a half-fledged thing set free  
**Into a wilderness**, the gait of one  
Who finds no path where the path should be.*

*That hesitant figure, eddying away  
**Like a winged seed loosened from its parent stem**,  
Has something I never quite grasp to convey  
About nature's give-and-take – the small, the scorching  
Ordeals which fire one's irresolute clay.*

***I have had worse partings, but none that so**  
**Gnaws at my mind still.** Perhaps it is roughly  
Saying what God alone could perfectly show –  
How selfhood begins with a walking away,  
**And love is proved in the letting go.***

**What does it mean?**

- The father is thinking about watching his son grow up and become independent.
- He struggles with this at the start + finds it difficult.
- However, although it causes him pain, he accepts it is a natural event + if he loves his son, has to let him go

**Family relationship – father + Son – father's point of view.**

**Positive – loves his son – struggles to let him go but knows has to!**

## 6 – Follower

*My father **worked with a horse-plough,**  
His shoulders globed like a full sail strung  
Between the shafts and the furrow.  
The horse strained at his clicking tongue.*

***An expert.** He would set the wing  
And fit the bright steel-pointed sock.  
The sod rolled over without breaking.  
At the headrig, with a single pluck*

*Of reins, the sweating team turned round  
And back into the land. His eye  
Narrowed and angled at the ground,  
Mapping the furrow exactly.*

***I stumbled** in his hob-nailed wake,  
**Fell** sometimes on the polished sod;  
Sometimes he rode me on his back  
Dipping and rising to his plod.*

*I wanted to grow up and plough,  
To close one eye, stiffen my arm.  
**All I ever did was follow**  
**In his broad shadow round the farm.***

*I was a nuisance, **tripping, falling,**  
**Yapping** always. But today  
**It is my father who keeps stumbling**  
Behind me, and will not go away.*

**What does it mean?**

- Shows son's admiration + respect for his father who good at work on farm.
- In contrast, we see his clumsiness.
- However, as the father gets older, they change roles + the son is stronger + the father is the clumsier one.

**Family relationship – father + son – son's view of father.**

**Positive – son loves his father + wants to be like him.**

## **Eden Rock**

They are waiting for me somewhere beyond Eden Rock:  
My father, twenty-five, in the same suit  
Of Genuine Irish Tweed, his terrier Jack  
Still two years old and trembling at his feet.

My mother, twenty-three, in a sprigged dress  
Drawn at the waist, ribbon in her straw hat,  
Has spread the stiff white cloth over the grass.  
Her hair, the colour of wheat, takes on the light.

She pours tea from a Thermos, the milk straight  
From an old H.P. Sauce bottle, a screw  
Of paper for a cork; slowly sets out  
The same three plates, the tin cups painted blue.

The sky whitens as if lit by three suns.  
My mother shades her eyes and looks my way  
Over the drifted stream. My father spins  
A stone along the water. Leisurely,

They beckon to me from the other bank.  
I hear them call, 'See where the stream-path is!  
Crossing is not as hard as you might think.'

I had not thought that it would be like this.

### **What does it mean?**

- The speaker is thinking about a picnic with his parents when he was younger.
- He talks about them being how he remembers them + all the small details he remembers clearly.
- See the connection between them + the positive way he remembers them.

**Family relationship – thinking back to time when together**

**Positive – remembers it very clearly + happy time**

## 8 - Love's Philosophy

*The fountains **mingle** with the river,  
And the rivers with the ocean;  
The winds of heaven mix forever  
With a **sweet emotion**;  
**Nothing in the world is single**;  
All things by a law divine  
In another's being mingle-  
**Why not I with thine?***

*See, the mountains **kiss high heaven**,  
And the waves clasp one another;  
No sister flower could be forgiven  
If it disdained its brother;  
And the sunlight clasps the earth,  
And the **moonbeams kiss the sea**; -  
What are all these kissings worth,  
**If thou kiss not me?***

**What does it mean?**

-The speaker is saying about how everything on the earth is made as a pair + has a partner.

-However, he does not have a partner and is alone.

**Romantic relationship – wants to be with the person he loves**

**Negative – he is alone BUT does recognise that love is a positive emotion**

## 9 – Mother, Any Distance

*Mother, any distance greater than a single span  
**requires a second pair of hands.***

***You come to help me measure windows, pelmets, doors,**  
the acres of the walls, the prairies of the floors.*

*You at the zero-end, me with the spool of tape, recording  
length, reporting metres, centimetres back to base, then leaving  
up the stairs, the line still feeding out, unreeling  
years between us. **Anchor. Kite.***

*I space-walk through the empty bedrooms, climb  
the ladder to the loft, to breaking point, where something  
has to give;  
two floors below your **fingertips still pinch**  
the last one-hundredth of an inch...I reach  
towards a hatch that opens on an endless sky  
**to fall or fly.***

**What does it mean?**

- The speaker is preparing to move on in his life by getting his new house ready.
- His mother is helping him get ready.
- He knows this shows her love + support which he relies on as he moves on.

**Family relationship – mother + son**

**Positive – mother is there for her son + helps him get ready for next stage in life**

## **10 - Before You Were Mine**

*I'm ten years away from the corner you laugh on  
with your pals, Maggie McGeeney and Jean Duff.  
The three of you bend from the waist, holding  
each other, or your knees, and shriek at the pavement.  
Your polka-dot dress blows round your legs. Marilyn.*

*I'm not here yet. The thought of me doesn't occur  
in the **ballroom with the thousand eyes, the fizzy, movie tomorrows**  
the right walk home could bring. I knew you would dance  
like that. Before you were mine, your Ma stands at the close  
with a hiding for the late one. You reckon it's worth it.*

*The decade ahead of my loud, possessive yell was the best one, eh?  
I remember my hands in those **high-heeled red shoes, relics,**  
**and now your ghost clatters** toward me over George Square  
till I see you, clear as scent, under the tree,  
with its lights, and whose small bites on your neck, sweetheart?*

*Cha cha cha! **You'd teach me the steps** on the way home from Mass,  
stamping stars from the wrong pavement. Even then  
I wanted the bold girl winking in Portobello, somewhere  
in Scotland, before I was born. That **glamorous love lasts**  
**where you sparkle and waltz and laugh before you were mine.***

**What does it mean?**

- The speaker is looking at what her mum's life was like before she was born.
- She looks at how the mother was with her friends, free and dancing.
- This life changed when she had her daughter.
- We see the connection now between them.

**Family relationship – daughter + mother**

**Positive – see their relationship now + how she has changed her mother's life**

## 11 - Letters from Yorkshire

*In February, **digging his garden, planting potatoes,**  
he saw the first lapwings return and came  
indoors to write to me, his knuckles singing*

*as they reddened in the warmth.  
It's not romance, simply how things are.  
You out there, in the cold, seeing the seasons*

*turning, me with my heartfelt of headlines  
**feeding words onto a blank screen.**  
**Is your life more real because you dig and sow?***

*You wouldn't say so, breaking ice on a waterbutt,  
clearing a path through snow. Still, it's you  
who sends me word of that other world*

*pouring air and light into an envelope. So that  
at night, **watching the same news in different houses,**  
our souls tap out messages across the icy miles.*

### What does it mean?

- The speaker is thinking about how different her life is from her friend.
- He works on the land and grows food but she works inside on her computer.
- However, despite their different lives, they have a strong connection.

### Friendship

Positive – despite their differences, they are very close

## 12 - Climbing My Grandfather

*I decide to do it free, **without a rope or net.**  
**First, the old brogues, dusty and cracked;**  
**an easy scramble onto his trousers,**  
pushing into the weave, trying to get a grip.  
By the overhanging shirt I change  
direction, **traverse along his belt**  
**to an earth-stained hand.** The nails  
are splintered and give good purchase,  
the skin of his finger is smooth and thick  
like warm ice. On his arm I discover  
the glassy ridge of a scar, **place my feet**  
**gently in the old stitches and move on.**  
**At his still firm shoulder, I rest for a while***

*in the shade, not looking down,  
for climbing has its dangers, then pull  
myself up the loose skin of his neck  
to **a smiling mouth to drink among teeth.**  
**Refreshed,** I cross the scree cheek,  
to stare into his brown eyes, watch a pupil  
slowly open and close. Then up over  
the forehead, the wrinkles well-spaced  
and easy, to his thick hair (soft and white  
at this altitude), reaching for the summit,  
where gasping for breath **I can only lie  
watching clouds and birds circle,  
feeling his heat, knowing  
the slow pulse of his good heart.***

**What does it mean?**

- The speaker is comparing his grandfather as being like a mountain.
- He knows him really well as he describes him very clearly.
- His grandfather makes him feel safe and secure and happy.

**Family relationship – grandfather + grandson  
Positive – level of trust + feels protected**

### **13 - Porphyria's Lover**

***The rain set early in tonight,**  
The sullen wind was soon awake,  
It tore the elm-tops down for spite,  
And did its worst to vex the lake:  
I listened with heart fit to break.  
When glided in Porphyria; straight  
**She shut the cold out and the storm,**  
**And kneeled and made the cheerless grate  
Blaze up, and all the cottage warm;**  
Which done, she rose, and from her form  
Withdrew the dripping cloak and shawl,  
And laid her soiled gloves by, untied  
Her hat and let the damp hair fall,  
And, last, she sat down by my side  
And called me. When no voice replied,  
**She put my arm about her waist,**  
And made her smooth white shoulder bare,  
And all her yellow hair displaced,  
And, stooping, made my cheek lie there,  
And spread o'er all her yellow hair,  
Murmuring how she loved me — she*

*Too weak, for all her heart's endeavour,  
 To set its struggling passion free  
 From pride, and vainer ties dissever,  
 And give herself to me for ever.  
 But passion sometimes would prevail,  
 Nor could tonight's gay feast restrain  
 A sudden thought of one so pale  
 For love of her, and all in vain:  
 So, she was come through wind and rain.  
 Be sure I looked up at her eyes  
 Happy and proud; at **last I knew**  
**Porphyria worshipped me**; surprise  
 Made my heart swell, and still it grew  
 While I debated what to do.  
 That moment she was mine, mine, fair,  
 Perfectly pure and good: I found  
 A thing to do, and all her hair  
**In one long yellow string I wound**  
**Three times her little throat around,**  
**And strangled her.** No pain felt she;  
 I am quite sure she felt no pain.  
 As a shut bud that holds a bee,  
 I warily oped her lids: again  
 Laughed the blue eyes without a stain.  
 And I untightened next the tress  
 About her neck; her cheek once more  
 Blushed bright beneath **my burning kiss**:  
**I propped her head up as before,**  
**Only, this time my shoulder bore**  
**Her head,** which droops upon it still:  
 The smiling rosy little head,  
 So glad it has its utmost will,  
 That all it scorned at once is fled,  
 And I, its love, am gained instead!  
 Porphyria's love: she guessed not how  
 Her darling one wish would be heard.  
 And thus we sit together now,  
 And all night long we have not stirred,  
**And yet God has not said a word!***

**What does it mean?**

- The speaker's girlfriend comes home + lights the fire + tells him she loves him.
- He is pleased to see that she is in love with him but wants to have the control.
- He kills her with her own hair so that she will be his forever.
- He doesn't see anything wrong with this.

**Romantic relationship - Negative – he kills her!**

## 14 - Sonnet 29

**I think of thee!—my thoughts do twine and bud  
About thee, as wild vines, about a tree,**  
Put out broad leaves, and soon there 's nought to see  
Except the straggling green which hides the wood.  
Yet, O my palm-tree, be it understood  
I will not have my thoughts instead of thee  
Who art dearer, better! **Rather, instantly  
Renew thy presence;** as a strong tree should,  
Rustle thy boughs and set thy trunk all bare,  
And let these bands of greenery which insphere thee  
Drop heavily down,—burst, shattered, everywhere!  
Because, in this **deep joy to see and hear thee**  
And breathe within thy shadow a new air,  
**I do not think of thee—I am too near thee.**

### What does it mean?

- The speaker is talking about how she is thinking about her partner.
  - She describes him as a tree to show how her love is strong and growing.
  - She says though that she would rather be with him than just think about him.
- Romantic relationship – Positive