

Shakespeare's wife - rumours he disliked her but Duffy tries to dispel these.

2nd best bed was more personal as guests stayed in the first.

Metaphor - oral sex. Pearls have connotations of being precious, rare or having value - this was the inspiration for his work.

Verb = a doing word.
Noun = person
Literary representation of them having sex.
Enjambment of "touch" to pause on the sensation of his touch.

Things which bring on excitement.

The one that people thought he was depriving her of.

"Dozed" has connotations of boredom, lack of excitement. "Dribbling" suggests a non-continuous flow without power behind it. Prose seen to be boring compared to the drama or poetry of Shakespeare and Anne.

Themes

- * Love
- * Loss
- * Importance of language

Metaphor - it was the world they spent their time in and created for themselves. "spinning" implies passion.

Anne Hathaway

'Item I gyve unto my wife *my second best bed* ...'
(from Shakespeare's will)

The bed we loved in was a spinning world
of forests, castles, torchlight, clifftops, seas
where we would dive for pearls. My lover's words
were shooting stars which fell to earth as kisses
on these lips; my body now a softer rhyme
to his, now echo, assonance; his touch
a verb dancing in the centre of a noun.

Some nights, I dreamed he'd written me, the bed
a page beneath his writer's hands. Romance
and drama played by touch, by scent, by taste.
In the other bed, the best, our guests dozed on,
dribbling their prose. My living laughing love -
I hold him in the casket of my widow's head
as he held me upon that next best bed.

Carol Ann Duffy

Determined to keep her memories alive - even though he's gone his work and their love lives on.

Alliteration - Light sounds create a gentle image of positive qualities. Sounds like she is reflecting happily. Dash suggests she is about to reveal something else.

She holds on to these memories passionately just like their love. Rhyming couplet draws attention to the memories of them in bed - their relationship was stronger than people thought.

Structure mirrors sonnet. 14 lines ending in a rhyming couplet - paying homage to Shakespeare's work.

Allusions to Shakespeare's work - Macbeth, Hamlet, The Tempest.

Metaphor - shooting stars are special and rare - just like his work. He was inspired by their passion.

Her femininity is contrasted to his masculinity. Another reference to sound and words tying in to the idea of their love being like poetry.

She was his muse/ inspiration - their love created some of his greatest work. Too perfect to be real?

List to reflect continuous passion of their love. Incorporates all senses - takes over completely.

Funeral images - this poem has been a reflection as he is now gone.