

# Duffy



## Poetry Revision Booklet

Poetry Areas	Love	Loss	Isolation	Contrast	Revealing persona	Ambiguity/confusion
Poem 1						
Quotation						
Quotation						
Poem 2						
Quotation						
Quotation						
Poem 3						
Quotation						
Quotation						

Poetry Areas	Dealing with change	Emotional conflict in a character	Link between past and present	New ideas	Passing time	Striking use of imagery
Poem 1						
Quotation						
Quotation						
Poem 2						
Quotation						
Quotation						
Poem 3						
Quotation						
Quotation						

### "War Photographer" Textual Analysis Questions

1. How is the poem structured and how does this contrast with the images described in the poem? (2)
2. Why has Duffy compared the war photographer to a Priest in the first stanza? (2)
3. What effect is created by the sentence structure used in line 6? (1)
4. What is ambiguous about the word 'Solutions' in line 7? (1)
5. Comment on Duffy's use of contrast in the second stanza. (2)
6. Comment on the effectiveness of the word 'stained' in line 18. (2)
7. Fully comment (quotes and explanation) on the use of contrast in the final stanza. (4)
8. How effectively does Duffy use language features to confront the reader with the horrors of war? (4)
9. How effective are the final lines of the poem in helping the reader to understand Duffy's message? (2)

### "Valentine" Textual Analysis Questions

1. "Not a red rose or a satin heart" What is the significance of referring to these items? (1)
2. Give as detailed a commentary as you can on the metaphor - "It is a moon wrapped in brown paper" (2)
3. Comment on the use of the word "light" in line 4. (1)
4. Why is the word "Here" given a line of its own at the beginning of stanza 2? (1)
5. Explain fully the comparison made between the onion and the lover in lines 7 and 8. (2)
6. "A wobbling photo of grief". Explain the effectiveness of this image. (1)
7. Lines 11 and 12 are single, separated lines. Why do you think this is? (1)

8. Look at the following lines "Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips" and "Its scent will cling to your fingers". Analyse the imagery here. (4)
9. "Possessive" and "faithful" - these are words used to describe the onion and a lover. Comment on the use of both of them. (2)
10. The beginning of the last stanza is, once again a single sentence. Why? (1)
11. Select a piece of imagery from the final stanza and analyse it. (2)
12. Explain the effectiveness of the closing lines in aiding your understanding of the poem's central concerns. (2)

### "Originally" Textual Analysis Questions

1. Describe what the poem is about. (3)
2. How does Duffy use word choice to emphasise the speaker's tone in stanza one? (2)
3. "All childhood is an emigration" Fully analyse this image. (3)
4. Some are slow," (line 9) "Others are sudden" (line 11). Show how the poet highlights features of each emigration in lines 9-14. You should refer to word choice and sentence structure. (4)
5. How effectively does Duffy use language features to emphasise the speaker's anxiety in the second stanza? (4)
6. Explain how the language of lines 17-21 helps you to appreciate the change introduced by the word "But". (4)
7. How effective is the image "a skelf of shame" in the final stanza? (2)

### "Mrs Midas" Textual Analysis Questions

1. Describe the mood, and how it changes, in the first stanza. Use examples from the poem to support your answer and analyse these examples. (4)
2. Why do you think Duffy includes the specific type of pear in line 10? (1)
3. How is the speaker's husband presented to the reader in stanza 3? Support your answer with analysis of the text. (3)

4. Identify and explain the significance of a sound technique used by Duffy in stanza 4. (2)
5. "I finished the wine | on my own". What effect is created by enjambment here? (1)
6. What effect has Midas's wish had upon their marriage? Use an example from stanza 7 to support your answer. (2)
7. Explain the speaker's tone in stanza 8. (2)
8. Identify the speaker's attitude to her husband in this poem. (1)
9. What are the central concerns of this poem? Explain how the closing lines of this poem help you to understand the central concerns. (4)

#### "The Way My Mother Speaks" Textual Analysis Questions

1. How does the language used convey the speaker's confusion? (2)
2. By referring to two examples of imagery, show how Duffy creates the speaker's feelings of anxiety. (4)
3. Explain how lines 23-24 are an effective conclusion to the poem. (2)
4. What does the phrase "I saw her phrases to myself in my head" tell the reader about the speaker's relationship with her mother? (2)
5. Why does Duffy use italics in line 5 (1)
6. What is the effect created by the double negative of "Nothing is silent. Nothing is not silent"? (2)
7. Explain in detail the effect of the metaphor in lines 18-20 (3)
8. How does the poem highlight the main themes illustrated by Duffy? (4)

#### "In Mrs Tilscher's Class" Textual Analysis Questions

1. In lines 9-11 discuss how at least 2 features of language make the speaker's excitement about the classroom clear? (4)
2. In lines 17-23 show how Duffy conveys the changes throughout the Easter term (4)
3. Using your own words explain two important ideas conveyed in the final verse (2)
4. Explain the effect of the list "Tana, Ethiopia, Khartoum, Aswan." (2)
5. Explain in detail the metaphor used in lines 5-6. (3)
6. What does the phrase the "laugh of a bell" tell us about the school environment? (2)
7. How does the mention of "Brady and Hindley" contrast the other images of the stanza? Why is this effective? (3)
8. How does the language of the final stanza create a clear conclusion? (2)
9. Summarise in your own words the attitude of the speaker towards school and Mrs Tilscher. (2)

## Recognising a technique

### In Mrs Tilscher's Class

1. "The laugh of a bell swung by a running child" - personification
2. "This was better than home." – short sentence/tone
3. "The classroom glowed like a sweetshop" - simile
4. "Over the Easter term, the inky tadpoles changed from commas into exclamation marks." – metaphor
5. "stared at your parents, appalled, when you got back home." –word choice
6. "That feverish July, the air tasted of electricity." – word choice/metaphor
7. "Mrs Tilscher smiles, then turned away." – word choice
8. "the sky split open into a thunderstorm." – metaphor/word choice/alliteration

### The Way My Mother Speaks

1. I say her phrases to myself in my head – word choice
2. Restful shapes moving – word choice/contrast
3. The day and ever. The day and ever. – repetition
4. too blue swapped for a cool grey – word choice
5. Nothing is silent. Nothing is not silent. – repetition/ word choice
6. Like a child/and dipped a net/in a green erotic pond – simile/personification
7. Only tonight/I am happy and sad – word choice/contrast
8. I am homesick, free, in love/with the way my mother speaks – list/word choice

### Valentine

1. "Not a red rose or a satin heart." – word choice
2. "I give you an onion./It is a moon wrapped in brown paper." - metaphor
3. "It will blind you with tears/like a lover." - simile
4. "Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips/possessive and faithful" – word choice
5. "Take it./Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding ring." – word choice
6. "Lethal./Its scent will cling to your fingers,/cling to your knife" - short sentence/word choice

### War Photographer

1. spools of suffering set out in ordered rows." - alliteration/word choice
2. "as though his were a church and he/a priest preparing to intone a Mass." - metaphor
3. "Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh. All flesh is grass." - short sentence/list/word choice
4. "Solutions slop in trays /beneath his hands, which did not tremble then/though seem to now." – alliteration/word choice

5. "to fields which don't explode beneath the feet/ of running children in a nightmare heat." – word choice
6. "a half-formed ghost" - metaphor
7. "A hundred agonies in black and white/from which his editor will pick out fix or six" – hyperbole/word choice
8. "The reader's eyeballs prick /with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers." – word choice

### **Mrs Midas**

1. "the dark ground seems to drink the light of the sky" – personification/word choice
2. "he plucked a pear from a branch...it sat in his palm like a light bulb. On." – word choice/short sentence
3. "he was spitting out the teeth of the rich." -metaphor
4. "I made him sit/on the other side of the room and keep his hands to himself." - word choice
5. "Separate beds. In fact, I put a chair against my door,/near petrified." – short sentence/word choice
6. "we were passionate then, in those halcyon days, unwrapping each other, rapidly,/like presents" – word choice
7. "What gets me now is not the idiocy or greed/but lack of thought for me. Pure selfishness." - short sentence/word choice
8. "I miss most,/even now, his hands, his warm hands on my skin, his touch." - list

### **Originally**

1. "the miles rushed back to the city./the street, the house, the vacant rooms" - list
2. "I stared/at the eyes of a blind toy, holding its paw." – metaphor/word choice
3. "All childhood is an emigration" - metaphor
4. "My parents' anxiety stirred like a loose tooth/in my head. I want our own country, I said." – simile/direct speech/word choice
5. "But then you forget, or don't recall, or change" – list/word choice
6. "seeing your brother swallow a slug, feel only/a skelf of shame" – dialect/word choice/alliteration
7. "I remember my tongue/shedding its skin like a snake" - simile
8. "Where do you come from? strangers ask. Originally? And I hesitate." – questions/short sentence

## How to answer the 8 MARK Q...

All questions are worth 8 marks and should be structured using bullet points and headings.

### Use the headings:

- a) General Comment/Commonality (2 marks)
- b) Exam poem (2 marks)
- c) Other poem (4 marks)

### General Comment

- Write a sentence for each poem to show how it ties in with the question.

### Exam Poem

- Quote a relevant example from your exam poem.
- Pick out the techniques used in the quote.
- Explain what they show us and link this back to what the question is asking.

### Other Poem

- Do exactly the same as the Exam poem but do it twice.
- You can focus on one or two other poems.





## **Example Answers – Full marks**

**Discuss how Carol Ann Duffy uses contrast in this poem (Originally) and at least one other to highlight the poems' main concerns.** **8 marks**

### **General comment**

- \* In "Originally", we are shown the contrast between a young Duffy, unwilling to accept her new life in a foreign community, and an older Duffy, a woman who accepts that change is a natural part of life and believes it must be embraced.
- \* In "War Photographer", we are shown the contrast between the calm, dutiful photographer in the war zone and then the vulnerable, troubled man back home in peaceful England and also the contrast between the photographer and the public of England's reaction to the photographs.

### **Exam Poem**

**"I want our own country, I said./But then you forget, or don't recall or change"**

- \* The use of first person gives an autobiographical element and shows she still hasn't adjusted and links back to the start. It has a clear negative tone through the word choice of "our own" which reinforces her sense of belonging to the place where she originally lived. This contrast with Duffy's use of Used 2nd person to involve reader and make them reflect on their childhood and the things they adapted to. The use of the list emphasises the changes that she went through to assimilate and belong in this new environment and that while it can be difficult to pinpoint when this happens it is clearly inevitable that she would feel more comfortable in this new place as time passes.

### **Other Poem**

**"Home again/to ordinary pain which simple weather can dispel,/to fields which don't explode beneath the feet."**

- \* Through the oxymoron "ordinary pain" Duffy suggests the contrast between home and war - our problems are sorted by good weather – no idea of real suffering as pain is just little problems that can be forgotten. This is a contrast to the dangerous landscape of a warzone shown through the word choice of "explode" which suggests violence, bombs and death which would causes pain that would be far more extreme that that experienced in England as children don't have to worry about landlines.

**"A hundred agonies in black and white from which his editor will pick out five or six for Sunday's supplement."**

- \* The hyperbole of "hundred agonies" has connotations of extreme pain and highlights the suffering of these people and how the photographer is able to see the full extent of this problem. This contrast to the word choice of "five or six" which suggests that the editor is diminishing the severity of this problem and can remove himself from the content of the pictures. Therefore the photographer's view of the horrors of war contrast with the careless indifference of editor as he shows how little we care for the people suffering far away.