

Question 1

How does the author celebrate a love of self in Text 1? (*approximately 200–350 words*)

The author celebrates a love of self in Text 1 through an allusion to religion, specifically Catholicism. The statement, "Give wine. Give bread" draws an allusion to the reading before the Holy Communion is given to people receiving the bread of God or a blessing. This aspect of Church is about forgiveness and being grateful. The author explains that an individual must ask their bodies, the "strangers" they see in the mirror, for forgiveness as they are constantly doubting their image and self-concepts, the way they are perceived by others, their beauty and more. They are supposed to be grateful for their bodies and love themselves the way they are instead of disliking what they see. Communion is a celebration of life, just as this poem explores the celebration of loving oneself.

The author also uses connotative language such as, "Eat" and "Feast on your life" as a way to explore the celebration of self love. The author deliberately uses words that are associated with food as a way to symbolise celebration. In many cultures, food is a way to share joy with family and friends and express love for others. For example, people will most likely always bring some type of food to share with the people that have invited them over for dinner, or special holidays are always conjoined with feasting on the delicious foods. Through a relation of feasting, food and eating to loving your self, the author attempts to show the celebration of oneself and fulfilling that love of self by relating the process, of self love, to feasts.

The author also utilises a metaphor in text 1, the last stanza, to celebrate a love of self. The author skilfully states, "peel your own image from the mirror." This metaphor produces an image of someone looking into the mirror and transforming themselves into what they see. The author displays the celebration of self love because it celebrates the image of one's self, even though it may be an image they may not particularly like, and becoming more of what they see.

Question 2

How does the author explore the ways in which love changes over time in Text 2? (*approximately 300–500 words*)

The author titled the poem, "This was once a love poem". The clever word choice of "once" symbolises a past time of happiness and fulfilment until something happened and it stopped being a poem about love. The audience can grasp the hurt and sadness that derives from this title.

There is also repetition of "once" presented throughout text 2. It appears in the first, third and fourth stanza of the poem. Some statements show the character has developed their personality for the worst or changed aspects of themselves. For example, "**Once** it pretended shyness, then grew truly shy". This example shows that the character was an outgoing person who pretended to be shy in front of the person they loved, however, they then become hurt by the exact person and form a new personality to match what the other's desires of an ideal lover can be. Hence, this shows that love can become an enemy to people who believe in social desirability and pretending to be someone that they are not in order to receive the love they want. Another example is, "**Once** it drank beer for breakfast." This shows how relaxed and calming this love once was before it turned into an empty relationship. Followed by the lines, "drifted its feet in a river...with the feet of another", further represents this relaxed feeling that is grasped from the writer relating it to water and drifting.

The author, in the beginning of the poem utilises the past tense. By using, "grew", "drank", "pretended" and others, it expresses that something was happening and it is now over. However, in the end of the poem, the author states, "it decides", and "when it finds itself". The author then begins to use present and future tense to explore what will happen rather than what has happened. This further explains the timing of love and how it has and will proceed to change throughout a lifetime instead of just focusing on the past.

The author also utilises contrast to explore the past and future of love. It describes the character in this poem remembering "dressing as if for a great engagement" to considering between "a cat, the cultivation of African violets or flowering cactus." From going to dressing for important events, a lavish lifestyle and the adventures that love takes people on, to being alone and deciding whether they want to become a cat owner or grow a greenhouse within their living room, shows the sadness, emptiness or aimless life that this character's has come to. It describes love as something that used to be exhilarating, desirable and an emotion to be excited to feel, until it is described as something boring and unfulfilling.

Question 3

How does the author suggest that love is complicated in Text 3? (*approximately 300–500 words*)

The author uses alliteration to explore the complications of love throughout Text 3. Specifically, the author writes, "Consciously, conscientiously, concretely, constructively." The "con" sounds seem harsh and blunt emitting a stern tone adding to the theory that love is complicated. The author also states, "a helium balloon bright bachelor's button blue and bobbing" in relation to someone who finds love easy. The "b" sound, just like the "c" sound is perceived as an unpleasant sound to hear and evokes a feeling of wonder and uneasiness.

The author also uses onomatopoeia to suggest the uncertainties of love. The writer includes words such as, "banging", "roaring", "whimpering", "rustling", "snapping" and "thwack." All these words have a connotation of being hit or being scared. For example, a lion roars in which people become frightened by the lion, whimpering is associated with crying and sadness while snapping is associated with breaking. These words simply describe what the complications of love can cause: sadness, a broken heart, a fear to love again.

There is also paradox often presented by the author throughout text 3 in which suggest that love is complicated. For example, "it's killing me, but you thrive", "as we make and unmake", "to have and not to hold" and "diastole and systole". These show the effects that love can have on one person symbolising how complicated and emotionally draining it can be for some. By describing the clear contrasts between the two lovers, in this instance, the reader can grasp that the emotional drainage caused by love can be detrimental and can cause sadness and anger.

The metaphor in the second stanza was deliberately included in the poem to express the physical effects a complicated love has on one person. The author states, "It hurts to love wide open stretching the muscles that feel as if they are made of wet plaster...blunt knives...sharp knives." The association of knives evokes a stabbing sensation, almost as if someone is stabbing this person's heart with the love they are being given. The metaphor describes love as stretching a muscle that is stiff, tense, sticky and hard to get out of. This itself evokes the pain the audience can grasp from the writer as it is difficult and painful to stretch a muscle that is sore. The writer then compares to stretching that muscle as if it is a blunt and sharp knife, further reinforcing the immense pain the writer is feeling. All in all, the writer concludes that love is complicated by associating words with pain, darkness, sadness and other negative emotions.

B grade exemplar

Knowledge and Understanding

- A range of stylistic features shown such as connotative language, symbolism and metaphor

Analysis

- In An2 there's a singular investigation of how the use of 'once' can impact the readers
- There's varying levels of clarity but not perception in the analysis which also includes onomatopoeia and paradox

Application

- Mostly precise and fluent