

## GCSE English - Poetry

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I am going to write about three poems, a Thomas Hardy poem called 'Neutral Tones' and the other two, from 'Relationships' collection. My choices are 'Our Love Now' and 'Song for Last Year's Wife'. I am going to explore the way the poets present their feelings about relationships.

Firstly, I am going to write about 'Neutral Tones'. This poem is about the relationship between the poet and his wife, who did not love each other any longer. 'Neutral Tones' is written negatively, in a depressing way, shows the marriage died in the cold, bitter winter. The poet chose this title 'Neutral Tones' to show that there are no emotions in the marriage and suggests the colour is dull and dreary.

The structure of this poem is split into four stanzas; each of them has rhymes effect at the end of the line, ABBA. This is how the first four lines end,

"...that winter day" "...chidden of God" "...starving sod" "...and were gray"

This is because the first and last lines, AA that goes around a circle like a circular pond. Their relationship will get worse in a ruthless, repeated cycle where it ends at the pond where the poem is set at the start.

In the third stanza, the poet uses a metaphor to describe how his wife doesn't show that she loves him.

"The smile on your mouth was the deadest thing"

It shows how the poet's wife uses a sarcastic smile at him and shows that she doesn't love him. A very strange, unpleasant metaphor for her smile and their relationship would be better if she hadn't smiled at all. The poet dreads her smile and this affects their relationship.

The poet describes his suffering by using alliteration.

"...starving sod" "...wings with wrong"

This tells us that the poet's suffering goes on and on. The 'w' sound is long and drawn out and makes us feel his suffering. Also it makes the winter sound almost cruel with the repeated 's' sound, and harsh and cruel can describe Hardy and his wife.

There are also examples of emotive language in this poem.