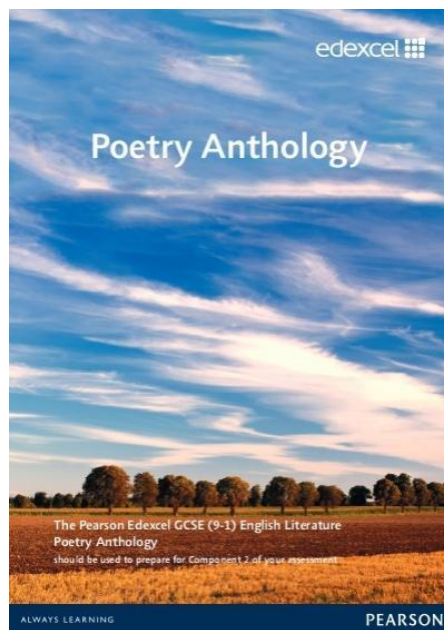


GCSE English Literature

Remote Learning

Anthology Poetry



This booklet and activities are to help you revise the knowledge you already have about poetry and learn the meaning and messages of some of the new poems. You should have already completed tasks on some of the key poems last term (just before the Easter holidays). If not, please complete these before our return to school.

What do you need?

You may have taken home your poetry anthology in which case you can look at this at any time. A copy of the poetry anthology will also be placed on your google classroom and can be found on the school closure website:

School closure website: <https://sites.google.com/themountbattenschool.org/isolation-work/english/year-10>

You may also wish to use any notes you have from your exercise books but do not worry if you don't have this.

ANTHOLOGY POETRY – RELATIONSHIPS

Each week, you will be given a new booklet to work through. You do not need to print this booklet in order to use it but can do so if you wish.

You can make notes on your anthology if you have it. You can do a lot of the tasks without writing out the poem but you may wish to make notes on it.

All poems will also be printed in this booklet.

This week’s poem is called: **Nettles** but first you will do some retrieval exercises – remembering information that you have already learnt.

Activity 1: Revising key terminology

10 minutes

You can complete this in your exercise book or on paper.

For each of the poetry and language techniques, write a definition. You can look these definitions up online or in your exercise books.

Caesura

Repetition

Sibilance

Tricolon

Simile

Anaphora

Imagery

Alliteration

Metaphor

Exclamative

Activity 2: Language and Structure

10 minutes

You can complete this on this page (if printed), in your exercise book or on paper.

For each of the examples from some of the poems you have already studied, identify the language or structural feature used and write it in the box or on your paper next to the quotation. If you are unsure put a **?** in the box and check your answers later. **An example is done for you.**

Remember you need to check your answers at the back of the booklet and revise the terms that you do not know.

'I see a lily on thy brow'	'You love a story, dad?'	'I love thee... I love thee... I love thee...'
'She walks in beauty, like the night'	'What I? Shall I dare to tell?' Rhetorical Question	'How lank and thin your beard hangs down!'
With my lost Saints, - I love thee with the breath,'	'I shut her wild wild eyes'	'Of murmuring, sparkling, living love'
'serenely sweet express'	'And no birds sing'	'Of cloudless climes'

This week's poem is called: **Nettles**

Activity 1: Prediction exercise

10 minutes

Work can be completed in this booklet, in your anthology or in your literature (purple) exercise book.

What emotions, thoughts and images does the following image of some stinging nettles make you think of?

You should come up with 6-8 different ideas.



Activity 2: Understanding poet and narrator

20 minutes

Work can be completed in this booklet, in your anthology or in your literature (purple) exercise book.

The poem *Nettles* is written by a poet called Vernon Scannell. To understand the poem, you need to know that:

- Vernon Scannell lived from 1922 – 2007.
- His background is fascinating, including serving with the Army in the Middle East and the Normandy Landings.
- He is mostly a Second World War poet.
- He joined the army aged 18, and he did fight in WW2.

- He did desert his soldiers TWICE and was arrested. He found himself in Northfield Hospital for three years (this was his prison). This is what we would now refer to as a mental institution, as the Generals believed he was going mad.
- He had six children.
- Two of those children passed away.
- One of his sons passed away as a young child. The other passed away in adulthood after being involved in a motorcycle crash.
- Four of his children, two sons and two daughters are still alive today.

Task: Based on the above information, which of the following themes do you think will be important in the poem?

FAMILY	LOVE	LOSS	CONFLICT	FATHERS
LOYALTY	FEAR	WAR	ANGER	HAPPINESS

Task: Now, read through the poem in full.

You can also listen and watch some images related to the poem here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Wttwy0recg>

Nettles

My son aged three fell in the nettle bed.
 'Bed' seemed a curious name for those green spears,
 That regiment of spite behind the shed:
 It was no place for rest. With sobs and tears
 5 The boy came seeking comfort and I saw
 White blisters beaded on his tender skin.
 We soothed him till his pain was not so raw.
 At last he offered us a watery grin,
 And then I took my billhook, honed the blade
 10 And went outside and slashed in fury with it
 Till not a nettle in that fierce parade
 Stood upright any more. And then I lit
 A funeral pyre to burn the fallen dead,
 But in two weeks the busy sun and rain
 15 Had called up tall recruits behind the shed:
 My son would often feel sharp wounds again.

Vernon Scannell

Now, read the poem again so that you have a better understanding.

Task: Go back to the boxes above, would you change the big ideas that you circled. Put a X through the ones you now think are irrelevant.

Answers can be found at the end of this booklet.

Activity 3: Order events in the poem

20 minutes

Work can be completed in this booklet, in your anthology or in your literature (purple) exercise book.

Below are some things that happen in this poem. Put them in the right order.

- A. THE FATHER BURNT THE NETTLES
- B. THE BOY CAME LOOKING FOR COMFORT FROM HIS MOTHER AND FATHER
- C. THE FATHER WENT OUT AND SLASHED THE NETTLES TO THE FLOOR
- D. THE FATHER SHARPENED HIS BILLHOOK
- E. THE THREE YEAR OLD FELL INTO SOME NETTLES
- F. THE FATHER REALISED HIS SON WILL FEEL PAIN AGAIN
- G. ALL THE NETTLES ENDED UP ON THE FLOOR
- H. THERE WERE BLISTERS ON THE BOY'S ARM
- I. THE BOY BEGAN TO CRY
- J. THE SUN AND RAIN MADE THE NETTLES GROW AGAIN

Answers can be found at the end of this booklet.

Check your answers so that you understand the story of the poem.

Remember, the speaker in this poem is the narrator. We can assume that the story is based on Vernon Scannell's life but the poet is not necessarily always the narrator.

In your own words, summarise what you think is happening in this poem?

Activity 4: Quotation hunt

15 minutes

Work can be completed in this booklet, in your anthology or in your literature (purple) exercise book.

The poem is about a father who worries that he cannot always look after his son. He is protective and wants to stop his son from getting hurt. He takes out his anger on the nettles. There are a number of key themes in the book. Find quotations from the poem to put into each column.

War, Violence and Danger	Nature	Anger and Bitterness

Activity 5: the poet's message

15 minutes

Work can be completed in this booklet, in your anthology or in your literature (purple) exercise book. If you haven't already, join GCSE Pod so that you can watch the video to help you.

- 1) Using the instructions given by your teacher, log into GCSE Pod. If you are unsure how to do this, email your teacher or check your google classroom.
- 2) Watch the video set called: **Nettles, Context and the poet's intentions.**

Now, consider the poem overall. Complete the grid below with three points.

How is the parent - child relationship presented?	Quotation to demonstrate this?	Explain how this quotation shows this presentation. Any techniques used?

Answers:

Page 1: Activity 2:

'I see a lily on thy brow' Metaphor	'You love a story, dad?' Question	'I love thee... I love thee... I love thee...' Anaphora
'She walks in beauty, like the night' Simile	'What I? Shall I dare to tell?' Rhetorical Question	'How lank and thin your beard hangs down!' Exclamative
With my lost Saints, - I love thee with the breath, Caesura	'I shut her wild wild eyes' Repetition	'Of murmuring, sparkling, living love' Tricolon
'serenely sweet express' Sibilance	'And no birds sing' Natural imagery	'Of cloudless climes' Alliteration Natural imagery

Page 3: Activity 2:

FAMILY ✓	LOVE ✓	LOSS ✓	CONFLICT ✓	FATHERS ✓
LOYALTY ✓	FEAR ✓	WAR ✓	ANGER ✓	HAPPINESS

Page 4: Activity 3:

Correct order:

E, I, B, H, D, C, G, A, J, F