

# Relationship Poetry Knowledge Organiser

## Key poems you will study:

1. *Brothers* by Simon Armitage.
2. *Praise Song for My Mother* by Grace Nichols.
3. *Nettles* by Vernon Scannell.
4. *Sister Maude* by Christina Rossetti.

## Key themes you will explore:

1. Family relationships
2. Childhood memories
3. Growing up
4. Love
5. Jealousy

## By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Explain the literal and metaphorical meaning of a poem.
2. Make inferences based on evidence from a poem.
3. Analyse the impact of specific words and phrases in a poem.
4. Consider how a poem is structured and the effect of this on the reader.

<u>Technique</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Simile	Comparing one thing to another using 'as' or 'like'
Metaphor	Saying one thing is another
Personification	Giving human qualities to something non-human
Alliteration	Words that begin with the same letter
Onomatopoeia	Sound words, e.g. crash, bang.
Imagery	Words used to create a picture in the reader's mind
Repetition	Words or phrases that are repeated
Stanza	A group of lines in a poem
Enjambment	The continuation of one line to the next
Caesura	A break in the line (usually caused by punctuation)
Rhythm	
Rhyme Scheme	

Name of poem and meaning	Language	Structure and form
<p><i>Praise Song for my Mother</i> by Grace Nichols</p> <p><b>On a literal level</b>, Nichols creates a touching tribute to her mother.</p> <p><b>On a metaphorical level</b>, the poem explores the idea of maternal love.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beautiful images of nature (moon / sun / water).</li> <li>• Use of images of food / drink 'water'.</li> <li>• Images of Life in the Caribbean 'plantain' and 'flame trees'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete lack of punctuation to suggest that her feelings / love have no limits. Also, it reflects that the good memories have merged into one positive image.</li> <li>• Use of enjambment to reflect the mother's care was constant and never ending.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Nettles</i> by Vernon Scannell</p> <p><b>On a literal level</b> the poem is a story of the speaker's young son falling into a bed of nettles.</p> <p><b>On a metaphorical level</b> the father is seen trying to protect his son from the future dangers he might face in life.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Military language is used throughout the poem; the nettles are personified- 'regiment of spite'.</li> <li>• Alliteration of 'blisters beaded'</li> <li>• The child is presented as vulnerable 'tender' and 'watery'.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative poem - with a first person narrator - emphasises the fact that the poem is about personal experience.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Sister Maude</i> by Christina Rossetti</p> <p><b>On a literal level</b> the poem is about the speaker's true love that was destroyed by the jealousy of her sister.</p> <p><b>On a metaphorical level</b> the poet explores the idea that actions springing from wicked motives will always lead to destruction and tragedy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Religious imagery- 'Paradise', 'golden gown' and 'crown'.</li> <li>• The alliteration of 'comeliest corpse'.</li> <li>• The sibilance of "spared his soul, sister,/Have spared my soul, your own soul too:'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a dramatic monologue in which the speaker builds up her anger and unleashes it in the final verse.</li> <li>• The end stopped lines show the intense expression of anger.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Brothers</i> by Andrew Forster</p> <p><b>On a literal level</b> the poet is the speaker in the poem and he is describing an incident that happened when he left his younger brother.</p> <p><b>On a metaphorical level</b> the poet explores how seemingly unimportant events can have a huge effect on family relationships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Everyday, very simple language is used.</li> <li>• The poet's use of verbs: "ambled", "strolled", "windmilled" and "skipped".</li> <li>• The poem is written in second person, to address the younger brother directly</li> <li>• Last lines of the poem are ambiguous.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative form - tells the story of a childhood memory in free verse.</li> <li>• There is quite a lot of enjambment again to reflect that this is normal speech, the events really did happen.</li> </ul>