

She Walks in Beauty

Lord Byron

1815



The Big Question

Is this a poem about
love?

Learning Outcomes

1. You will be able to explain what the poem is about.
2. You will be able to comment on the structure of the poem
3. You will be able to comment on the themes and ideas in the poem
4. You will be able to explore the ways the poet uses language
5. You will begin to make comparisons between the poems

What is the poem about?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cSgyslFXPds>

She Walks in Beauty is a short eighteen line poem celebrating _____. The beauty of the woman the speaker describes is in both her _____ appearance and her _____ goodness. Although it might generally be classified as a love poem the poet never actually declares that love. He concentrates on the subject's _____ attractiveness and purity.

The speaker is a highly _____ observer and he seems entirely fascinated by the woman's beauty. He is telling himself what he finds most captivating about this woman but at the same time communicating his feelings to a wider _____ – the reader. We are therefore given a _____ of this woman, as seen through someone else's eyes.

The speaker is keen to emphasise that it is not all about outward appearances. The early description of her physical beauty is matched by the _____ of her inner beauty or 'goodness' towards the end of the poem.

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. portrait | 4. external | 7. biased |
| 2. captivating | 5. audience | 8. description |
| 3. Inner | 6. female beauty | |

What is it about?

What is Lord Byron describing?

She walks in **beauty**, like the night
Of cloudless climes and starry skies; And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her **aspect** and her **eyes**:
Thus mellow'd to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impair'd the nameless grace
Which waves in every **raven tress**,
Or softly lightens o'er her **face**;
Where **thoughts** serenely sweet express
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that **cheek**, and o'er that **brow**,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The **smiles** that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A **mind** at peace with all below,
A **heart** whose love is innocent!

Which of these words best describe the woman in the poem?

- Attractive
- Graceful
- Lively
- Extroverted
- Calm
- thoughtful

Write a paragraph to explain what this poem is about.

Language – Imagery

Link the woman's _____ to the image

How do these images present the woman?

The woman's ...

Image

1. Beauty

- One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impair'd the nameless grace

2. Eyes

Which waves in every _____

3. Raven Tress

- _____ like the night Of
cloudless climes and starry skies

- And all that's best of dark and bright Meet in her _____
Thus mellow'd to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

Structure

The poem follows a strict regular pattern – iambic tetrameters.

1. Why do you think Byron chose to do this?

How do the ideas about the woman develop through the stanzas?

2. Why do you think Byron ends the poem in this way?

Context

How similar is Rob Brydon to Lord Byron?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wMEi8igUdtI>

1. Byron's writing here is part of the Romantic tradition. It contains the idea of heart over head (rejection of Science) and suggests that nature represents innocence and purity (reaction to Industrialisation)
2. Byron is well known for his eventful life, including his romances.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gn1sS9kz2ms>

Themes and Ideas

- Is this a poem about love?
- Discuss with a partner and produce a response to this question.

Which of our poems can you link this to and why?

1. *Sonnet 43* Elizabeth Barrett Browning
2. *The Soldier* Rupert Brooke
3. *She Walks in Beauty* Lord Byron
4. *Cozy Apologia* Rita Dove
5. *Valentine* Carol Ann Duffy
6. *A Wife in London* Thomas Hardy
7. *Death of a Naturalist* Seamus Heaney
8. *Hawk Roosting* Ted Hughes
9. *To Autumn* John Keats
10. *Afternoons* Philip Larkin
11. *Dulce et Decorum Est* Wilfred Owen
12. *Mametz Wood* Owen Sheers

Which have we got left to study?

WJEC Eduqas GCSE English Literature Poetry Anthology

1. *The Manhunt* Simon Armitage
2. *Sonnet 43* Elizabeth Barrett Browning
3. *London* William Blake
4. *The Soldier* Rupert Brooke
5. *She Walks in Beauty* Lord Byron
6. *Living Space* Imtiaz Dharker
7. *As Imperceptibly as Grief* Emily Dickinson
8. *Cozy Apologia* Rita Dove
9. *Valentine* Carol Ann Duffy
10. *A Wife in London* Thomas Hardy
11. *Death of a Naturalist* Seamus Heaney
12. *Hawk Roosting* Ted Hughes
13. *To Autumn* John Keats
14. *Afternoons* Philip Larkin
15. *Dulce et Decorum Est* Wilfred Owen
16. *Ozymandias* Percy Bysshe Shelley
17. *Mametz Wood* Owen Sheers
18. Excerpt from *The Prelude* William Wordsworth