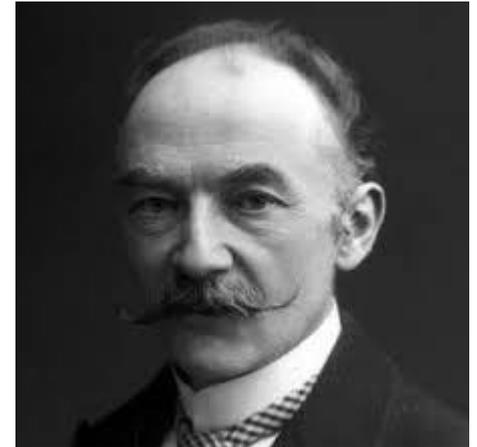


A Wife in London

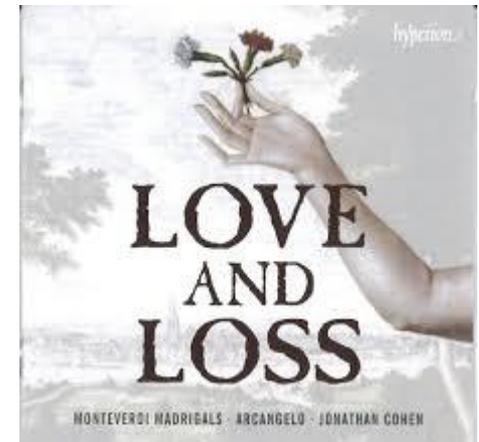
Thomas Hardy

1899



The Big Question

Is this a poem about war or is it a poem about love and loss?



Context - The Boer War 1899-1902

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_7yNjQquik
- Answer the key questions about this war:
Who? What? Where? When? Why?

What is the poem about?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V7CjPTLuj6Q>

I--The Tragedy

She sits in the tawny vapour
That the City lanes have uprolled,
Behind whose webby fold on fold
Like a waning taper
The street-lamp glimmers cold.

A messenger's knock cracks smartly,
Flashed news is in her hand
Of meaning it dazes to understand
Though shaped so shortly:
He--has fallen--in the far South Land . . .

1. What is the effect of the title of this section of the poem?
2. What is the woman doing in stanza 1?
3. What happens in stanza 2?

What is the poem about?

II--The Irony

'Tis the morrow; the fog hangs thicker,
The postman nears and goes:
A letter is brought whose lines disclose
By the firelight flicker
His hand, whom the worm now knows:

Fresh--firm--penned in highest feather -
Page-full of his hoped return,
And of home-planned jaunts by brake and burn
In the summer weather,
And of new love that they would learn.

1. What is the effect of the title of this section of the poem?
2. What happens in stanza 1?
3. What happens in stanza 2?

Answer the questions in the thought bubbles

I--The Tragedy

She sits in the **tawny vapour**

That the City lanes have uprolled,
Behind whose **webby** fold on fold

Like a **waning taper**

The **street-lamp glimmers cold.**

'tawny vapour'

Pathetic fallacy –
What atmosphere
does Hardy create
here?

'Webby'

spider's web
imagery - Why
does Hardy
choose that
image?

'waning taper' & 'street light
glimmers cold'

Contrast between light and dark &
warmth and cold. What could this
represent?

Answer the questions in the thought bubbles

A messenger's knock **cracks** smartly,
Flashed news is in her hand
Of meaning it dazes to understand
Though shaped so shortly:
He--has fallen--in the far South Land . . .

'cracks'

Why choose
this word?

'flashed'

What is the
effect of this
word?

Comment on the bits in red

II--The Irony

'Tis the morrow; the fog hangs thicker,

The postman nears and goes:

A letter is brought whose lines disclose

By the firelight flicker

His hand, whom the worm now knows:

Comment on the bits in red

Fresh--firm--penned in highest feather -
Page-full of his **hoped return**,
And of **home-planned jaunts** by brake and
burn
In the **summer weather**,
And of **new love** that they would learn.

How does this contrast with the start of the poem and what mood does this create?

Structure -More thoughts please
What is the impact of dividing the
poem into 2 sections?

- The tragedy
- The irony

Themes and ideas

- What does this poem tell us about love?
- What does this poem tell us about war?

The Big Question

Is this a poem about war or is it a poem about love and loss?



Themes and ideas

1. What does this poem tell us about love?
2. What does this poem tell us about war?

