

TASK ONE:

Write an answer response to the following question:

How does Nims present ideas about his relationship in his 'Love Poem'?

You should use the assessment objectives (AO1, AO2 and AO5) below to guide you and the planning sheet on the next page to help you generate ideas; the final piece must be written in prose. Your answer should demonstrate:

- Your understanding of the ideas Nims conveys
- Your ability to construct a coherent interpretation of an unfamiliar text
- Your ability to comment on the impact of specific choices made by the writer
- Your enthusiasm for and interest in studying English Literature

| AO1 | AO2 | Extension: AO5 |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression</p> | <p>Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts</p> | <p>Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations</p> |

TASK TWO:

Find another love poem of your choice. Annotate the poem focusing on:

- What ideas are presented about love?
- How are these ideas presented about love?

CHALLENGE: Explore similarities and differences between Nims Love Poem and the poem you have selected.

PLANNING GRID

| POINT | EVIDENCE (quotation) | EFFECT/IMPACT WRITER'S INTENTIONS |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <p>BEGINNING <i>Consider how Nims's use of language at the beginning of the poem supports your interpretations of the theme in question?</i></p> <p><i>How does the internal structure of the poem reinforce your interpretations of Nims's intentions?</i></p> | | |
| <p>MIDDLE <i>How does Nims's use of language in the middle of the poem support your interpretations of the theme in question?</i></p> <p><i>How does the outer shape and form of the poem reinforce your interpretations of Nims's intentions?</i></p> | | |
| <p>END <i>How does Nims's use of language at the end of the poem support your interpretations of the theme in question?</i></p> <p><i>How does the structure or form reinforce your interpretations of the theme in question?</i></p> | | |
| <p>EVALUATION <i>What are your final conclusions about Nims's intentions?</i> <i>Throughout you may have debated alternative interpretations. Here, you should evaluate which interpretation is most convincing, considering what Nims might be saying about the nature of the relationship he presents</i></p> | | |

John Frederick Nims (1913 –1999) was an American poet and academic. He published the following poem in a collection entitled *The Iron Pastoral* in 1947.

Love Poem

My clumsiest dear, whose hands shipwreck vases,
At whose quick touch all glasses chip and ring,
Whose palms are bulls in china, burs in linen,
And have no cunning with any soft thing

Except all ill-at-ease fidgeting people:
The refugee uncertain at the door
You make at home; deftly you steady
The drunk clambering on his undulant floor.

Unpredictable dear, the taxi drivers' terror,
Shrinking from far headlights pale as a dime
Yet leaping before red apoplectic streetcars—
Misfit in any space. And never on time.

A wrench in clocks and the solar system. Only
With words and people and love you move at ease;
In traffic of wit expertly manoeuvre
And keep us, all devotion, at your knees,

Forgetting your coffee spreading on our flannel,
Your lipstick grinning on our coat,
So gayly in love's unbreakable heaven
Our souls on glory of spilt bourbon float.

Be with me, darling, early and late. Smash glasses—
I will study wry music for your sake.
For should your hands drop white and empty
All the toys of the world would break.