**Wisdom and the World**

An Anthology of Poetry for KS3 Students

1. **Fall, Leaves, Fall**, by Emily Brontë (1846)
2. **The Eagle**, by Alfred Tennyson(1851)
3. **An Emerald is as Green as Grass**, Christina Rossetti (1872)
4. **In Time of Silver Rain**, Langston Hughes (1947)
5. **The Trees**, Philip Larkin (1974)
6. **Nettles**, Vernon Scannell (1980)
7. **The Ideal**, James Fenton (1983)
8. **Praise Song For My Mother**, Grace Nichols (1984)
9. **Indian Cooking**, Moniza Alvi (1993)
10. **December**, Carol Ann Duffy (2005)
11. **A Chant Against Death**, by Mervyn Morris (2006)
12. **Remember**, by Matt Goodfellow (2020)

**Fall, Leaves, Fall (1846)**

Fall, leaves, fall; die, flowers, away;

Lengthen night and shorten day!

Every leaf speaks bliss to me,

Fluttering from the autumn tree.

I shall smile when wreaths of snow

Blossom where the rose should grow;

I shall sing when night’s decay

Ushers in a drearier day.

**Emily Brontë**

**Tone**

Elements of a text that reveal the writer’s attitude

**Autumn and Winter are not seasons we typically associate with joy**

Why do you think Brontë chooses to celebrate them in the poem?

**The Eagle (1851)**

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;

Close to the sun in lonely lands,

Ring’d with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;

He watches from his mountain walls,

And like a thunderbolt he falls.

**Alfred Tennyson**

**Alliteration**

The repetition of consonant sounds

**The poem depicts a powerful bird of prey taking flight**

How does Tennyson use language to reflect its power and movement?

**An Emerald is as Green as Grass (1872)**

An emerald is as green as grass;

A ruby red as blood;

A sapphire shines as blue as heaven;

A flint lies in the mud.

A diamond is a brilliant stone,

To catch the world’s desire;

An opal holds a fiery spark;

But a flint holds fire.

**Christina Rossetti**

**Simile**

A comparison of two things usually using ‘like’ or ‘as’

**Flint is very different to the other precious stones in the poem**

How does Rosetti use language and structure to draw attention to its qualities?

**In Time of Silver Rain (1947)**

In time of silver rain

The earth

Puts forth new life again,

Green grasses grow

And flowers lift their heads,

And over all the plain

The wonder spreads

Of life, of life, of life!

In time of silver rain

The butterflies lift silken wings

To catch a rainbow cry,

And trees put forth

New leaves to sing

In joy beneath the sky

As down the roadway passing boys

And girls go singing, too,

In time of silver rain

When spring

**Adjective**

A word that modifies a noun

And life are new.

**Langston Hughes**

**Rain is not something we typically associate with optimism**

How does Hughes use language and form to draw attention to its qualities?

**The Trees (1974)**

The trees are coming into leaf

Like something almost being said;

The recent buds relax and spread,

Their greenness is a kind of grief.

Is it that they are born again

And we grow old? No, they die too.

Their yearly trick of looking new

Is written down in rings of grain.

Yet still the unresting castles thresh

In fullgrown thickness every May.

Last year is dead, they seem to say,

Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.

**Philip Larkin**

**Symbolism**

Use of an object or entity to represent ideas or qualities

**Trees might seem like a strange choice for the subject of a poem**

What bigger ideas does Larkin explore through them?

**Nettles (1980)**

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

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

And went outside and slashed in fury with it

Till not a nettle in that fierce parade

Stood upright anymore. And then I lit

A funeral pyre to burn the fallen dead,

But in two weeks the busy sun and rain

Had called up tall recruits behind the shed:

My son would often feel sharp wounds again.

**Vernon Scannell**

**Allegory**

A story containing another symbolic story or hidden meaning

**The poem is about the experience of a young boy falling into a patch of nettles**

What is it also about?

**The Ideal (1983)**

This is where I came from.

I passed this way.

This should not be shameful

Or hard to say.

A self is a self.

It is not a screen.

A person should respect

What he has been.

This is my past

Which I shall not discard.

This is the ideal.

This is hard.

**James Fenton**

**Enjambment**

Where the syntax of a phrase runs over two or more lines of poetry

**The poem is formed of a series of simple statements**

How do these statements help to create a powerful voice?

**Praise Song For My Mother (1984)**

You were

water to me

deep and bold and fathoming...

**Grace Nichols**

**Metaphor**

Language that transports meaning from one place to another

**Water is the central metaphor in the poem**

How does it convey praise for the speaker’s mother?

**Indian Cooking (1993)**

The bottom of the pan was a palette –

paprika, cayenne, dhania

haldi, heaped like powder-paints.

Melted ghee made lakes, golden rivers.

The keema frying, my mother waited

for the fat to bubble to the surface.

Friends bought silver-leaf.

I dropped it on khir –

special rice pudding for parties.

I tasted the landscape, customs

of my father’s country –

its fever on biting a chilli.

**Moniza Alvi**

**Imagery**

Language used to engage and immerse the senses

**The preparation of food is presented as a joyful activity**

Why else is food preparation important to the speaker?

**December (2005)**

The year dwindles and glows

to December’s red jewel,

my birth month.

The sky blushes,

and lays its cheek

on the sparkling fields.

Then dusk swaddles the cattle,

their silhouettes

simple as faith.

These nights are gifts,

our hands unwrapping the darkness

to see what we have.

The train rushes, ecstatic,

to where you are,

my bright star.

**Verb**

A word used to identify an action or state

**Carol Ann Duffy**

**The poem has similarities with Fall, Leaves, Fall, by Emily Brontë**

In what ways is it similar and what are the differences?

**A Chant Against Death (2006)**

say family

 say friends

say wife

 say love

 say life

 say learning

 laughter

 sunlight

rain

 say cycle

circle

music

 memory

say night & day

say sun & moon

 say

**Free Verse**

Poetry that does not follow established conventions of form and metre

see you soon.

**Mervyn Morris**

**The poem is written using a particularly distinctive form**

What effect do the white spaces have on the rhythm?

**Remember (2020)**

when shadows creep across your mind

and smiles are thin and tight

when you do what you believe in

but question if it’s right

when you focus not on what you’ve got

but all the things you lack

there may be rain at the front of the house

but sunshine round the back

when you can’t remember where you found

the words you used to say

when your heartbeat is the music

that you listen to each day

when you turn away from talent

in case you lose the knack

there may be rain at the front of the house

but sunshine round the back

**Matt Goodfellow**

**Juxtaposition**

Placing objects, images or ideas together to contrast them

**The poem contains a series of contrasting images**

How do they help convey the central message of the poem?