

Language and Literature Summer Task

Over the A level course you will study a collection of poems by Carol Ann Duffy. In preparation for this you should read one of her other works to familiarise yourself with her themes and style.

Task: Read 'Havisham' by Carol Ann Duffy. Write an analytical response (no more than 300 words) to the question: **How does Duffy present the female character in this poem?**

Consider the emotion and tone of the narrator and how she conveys her thoughts and feelings. You should aim to apply any analytical terms you have encountered in your GCSE language or literature. For example: imagery, enjambment, adjectives, adverbs, stanza, onomatopoeia etc

This should be ready for submission in the first week of your A level study.

Havisham

Beloved sweetheart bastard. Not a day since then
I haven't wished him dead. Prayed for it
so hard I've dark green pebbles for eyes,
ropes on the back of my hands I could strangle with.

Spinster. I stink and remember. Whole days
in bed cawing Nooooo at the wall; the dress
yellowing, trembling if I open the wardrobe;
the slewed mirror, full-length, her, myself, who did this

to me? Puce curses that are sounds not words.
Some nights better, the lost body over me,
my fluent tongue in its mouth in its ear
then down till I suddenly bite awake. Love's

hate behind a white veil; a red balloon bursting
in my face. Bang. I stabbed at a wedding cake.
Give me a male corpse for a long slow honeymoon.
Don't think it's only the heart that b-b-b-breaks.

Carol Ann Duffy

If you want to read more of Duffy's work you can get ahead by following this link: <https://poetryarchive.org/poet/carol-ann-duffy/>

And finally, please purchase your own copy of 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley in preparation for study during the first year. We would advise reading this prior to starting the course.