

Love and Relationships (1)

Key Themes

- Romantic Love
- Familial Love
- Longing/ loss
- Obsession
- Nature
- Death/age

Summary of each poem's Key Themes

Romantic Love	Familial Love	Longing/Loss	Obsession	Nature	Death/Age
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •When we two parted •Neutral Tones •Winter Swans •Singh Song •Love's Philosophy •The Farmer's Bride •Porphyria's Lover •Sonnet 29: I think of thee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Walking Away •Follower •Mother, Any Distance •Climbing my Grandfather •Eden Rock •Before you were mine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •When we two parted •Neutral Tones •Winter Swans •Love's Philosophy •Porphyria's Lover •Sonnet 29: I think of thee •Walking Away •Mother, Any Distance •Before you were mine •Letters from Yorkshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Singh Song •Love's Philosophy •The Farmer's Bride •Porphyria's Lover •Before you were mine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •When we two parted •Neutral Tones •Winter Swans •Love's Philosophy •Sonnet 29: I think of thee •Walking Away •Follower •Climbing my Grandfather •Eden Rock •Letters from Yorkshire 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •When we two parted •Neutral Tones •The Farmer's Bride •Porphyria's Lover •Walking Away •Follower •Mother, Any Distance •Climbing my Grandfather •Eden Rock •Before you were mine

When we two parted

- **Romantic love + longing/loss + death:** In the poem, the speaker grieves the loss of a former love . Through **sombre (sadness) tones and mournful imagery**, the poem shows the sorrow akin to grieving a departed loved one, where the loss of romantic affection feels as **devastating as a physical death**.

- *“Pale grew thy cheek and cold”*

- **Nature:** The relentless persistence of the weather, despite being cold and bleak, contrasts the finality of human relationships.

- *“The dew of the morning”*

Neutral Tones

- **Romantic Love + Death:** The poem is filled with a sense of lifelessness, where paradoxical images of death and romantic love merge. This illustrates how the vibrancy of the speaker's relationship has been tainted by its demise, symbolically dying in his perception.

- *“The smile on your mouth was the deadest thing—”*

- **Longing/loss + nature:** The end and subsequent loss of their relationship have **drained the vitality from life**. The speaker's **disillusionment** (realised not as good as originally thought) with love has made the world and nature colourless around him.

- *“They had fallen from an ash, and were grey”*

Winter Swans

- **Romantic Love + nature:** Nature personified throughout the poem mirrors the **inner turmoil** of the couple, with the shifting weather symbolising the **ever-changing nature** of romantic relationships. It shows that love is a **cycle of conflict, reconciliation, and reconnection**.

- *“The clouds had given their all -” “waterlogged earth”*

- **Longing/loss:** The **interconnectedness** of the swans reinforces the loss of connection and emotional intimacy between the couple. As the poem progresses, the **pervasive** (spread throughout) sense of loss **dissipates** (disappears) as they overcome this conflict.

- *“Tipping in unison”*

Singh Song

- **Romantic Love:** The poem delves into the **raw authenticity** of genuine romantic love. Through humour, it reveals the **complexity of true unpolished love**, which contains **sacrifice, conflict, and adoration**.

- “She effing about my mum” and “Her rosy blush come / Not juss with makeup only”

- **Obsession:** He juxtaposes his wife's appearance with **conventional standards of beauty**, perceiving every deemed imperfection as a perfection. Thus, he declares his **everlasting obsession with her**, showing their love to be **boundless** (unlimited).

- “Tummy ov a teddybear” “priceless”

Love's Philosophy

- **Romantic Love + Longing + Obsession:** The speaker's relentless and almost obsessive persuasion comes from their longing for the union of their love. By making **divine allusions** (hinting to God), they intensify the obsessive persuasion, suggesting that their **separation defies divine natural order**.

- *“All things by a law divine / In one spirit meet and mingle,”*

- **Nature:** Through personifying nature and highlighting its natural **interconnectedness**, the poem parallels the speaker's argument that rejecting this interconnection would be unnatural, **disrupting the cycle and harmony of nature's processes**.

- *“The foundations mingle with the river” “Nothing in the world is single”*