

Essay Plan - Relationships breaking down

How is the breaking down of relationships presented in neutral tones and one other poem?

Paragraph 1

- **Similar:** Use nature as a conceit (extended metaphor) for the dismantling and breaking down of their love
- **Neutral tones:** The speaker's disillusionment (realised not as good as originally thought) with love due to it breaking down has made the world and nature colourless around him.
- **Evidence:** *"They had fallen from an ash, and were grey"*
- **Winter swans:** The sombre tone is set from the offset, symbolising the melancholy (sadness) that is pervading their relationship, suggesting that their bond is weighed down by emotional burdens and the breaking down of their relationship
- **Evidence:** *"The clouds had given their all" "waterlogged earth"*
- **Different:** Winter swans, nature's harmony reminds them of their interconnection. This contrasts with the bleak finality of the breaking down of the relationship in Neutral tones
- **Winter Swans:** effortless synchronicity within nature, mirroring the natural synchronicity and interconnection within their own relationship.
- **Evidence:** *"A show of tipping in unison"*
- **Neutral tones:** The poem is filled with a sense of lifelessness, where paradoxical images of death and romantic love merge
- **Evidence:** *"The smile on your mouth was the deadest thing."*

Paragraph 2

- **Similar:** regular stanza lengths to show the inevitability and cycle of life, death and love even when a relationship is breaking down
- **Neutral tones:** regular quatrains to emphasise the consistency of life continuing even in the face of a relationship dismantling.
- **Winter swans:** Tercets + couplet as final stanza. Tercets = obstacles hindering the full fulfilment and unity of both individuals. Final stanza = conclusive, harmonious acceptance of these differences
- **Different:** Winter swans lack of rhyme, neutral tones ABBA rhyme
- **Neutral tones:** ABBA rhyme shows entrapment and cyclical despair at their broken relationship
- **Winter swans:** lack of rhyme reflects a sense of discord or disconnection and may symbolise the emotional challenges and misunderstandings that exist between the couple