

TSWIFT Poetry Analysis

	Text Evidence	Commentary
<u>T</u> itle	Touched By An Angel	The title employs a phrase commonly used to say that someone has an innate gift or beauty that makes them stand out from others. This title suggests that love serves as some divine gift that allows people to rise and progress.
<u>S</u> tructure	The poem consists of 3 stanzas with 6-8 lines. They each contain 1-2 rhymes with the remaining lines not rhyming.	The sparse rhyming adds a sense of maturity to the poem. However, the fact that the poem ends in a rhyme, one of the few in the entire poem, conveys a feeling of hopefulness, paralleling the speaker's hope that people will be set free from the world's hate through love.
<u>W</u> ord Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Chains" • "Fear" • "Costs" • "Free" • "ancient histories of pain" 	The usage of prison and bail-related diction develops a portrayal of love as a "chainbreaker" of hate's bonds, which have been holding people captive. The usage of chains could also be a reference to America's history of slavery, which exemplified how hate and ignorance could literally be used to hold people captive.
<u>I</u> magery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "love leaves its high holy temple / and comes into our sight / to liberate us into life" 	The imagery of love leaving its "temple" to give us life strongly parallels the Christian image of Jesus leaving Heaven to save and live among humans with salvation. This also aligns with how African-American slaves often relied on Christianity to hope for liberation, whether it would be literally

		through abolitionism or figuratively through death and going to Heaven.
<u>F</u>igurative Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Love arrives / and in its train come ecstasies” • “love strikes away the chains of fear / from our souls” 	The speaker personifies love as a benevolent force that frees people from the metaphorical chains of fear and hate. This personification reinforces the idea that love is a divine gift that allows humanity to progress past its tendencies of prejudice, hate, and fear.
<u>T</u>heme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “love costs all we are / and will ever be. / Yet it is only love / which sets us free 	The poem presents a contrast between the costs and benefits of choosing love. While loving one another can often stand in the way of our personal desires and pleasures, it also serves as the only way to free ourselves from the hate and fear that have plagued human history (through slavery, genocides, conquests, etc.).