***On Her Blindness Revision Notes***

***Summary:*** The author’s mother has progressive blindness copes through denial, as she ‘cant bear’ to admit reality. The author recounts her struggles with it and his feeling of ineptitude when trying to help. After her death he feels that she is finally at peace and despite his mistakes he still is guarded by her spirit. Takes place over a longer period of a few months or years, in the final stages of her Blindness. Set in Modern Berkshire, in an autumn ‘ablaze with colour’ (symbolising endings)

***Title:*** The title is an intertextual reference to John Milton’s ‘On his blindness’, in which the author laments over his sight loss. Makes it sound formal, like an essay.

***Tone:*** 1st person POV of the son, begins formal and high register ‘One shouldn’t’, ‘could not’, ‘catastrophic handicaps’. Gets more colloquial and conversational as the poem progresses, with inserted thought ‘(a fortnight back)’

 ***Structure:*** couplet stanzas symbolise the closeness of mother and son, ending with one final line after she dies. Enjambment makes the poem feel like gasping breath, emphasising the suffering of the mother Lack of a rhyme scheme makes the poem feel raw and genuine.

***Themes:*** sight vs. insight (She was watching… in the end), family, regret (locked-in son), illness (if I gave up hope, I’d bump myself off) and the stages of grief over the loss of sight and the loss of a mother.