**Ode to the West Wind:**

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| Context | Written in 1819 while Shelley lived in Italy, a year prior to him producing Prometheus Unbound. He claims to have written it in October on a windy day. |
| A poem about… | Nature and the seasons and how they are destructive. Shows the power of the wind by listing all the destructive things that is has done such as the seeds “that lie cold and low, each like a corpse within its bed. |
| Speaker | -The speaker is talking to the “west wind” directly and appears to be a strong speaker who toils with the strengths of its nature by demonstrating how destructive it is but still wants to be taken away by it.  -The speaker appears to want to be one with nature and says to the wind“ Oh lift me as a wave, a leaf a cloud”!  -The speaker may be a writer or a poet as he directly refers to the poem and says “by the incantation of this verse”.  -The speaker seems negative until the very end of the poem and shows melancholy in talking about summer. At the end of the poem the speakers talks about spring, ending the poem on a positive note, perhaps he is going through a hard time personally but knows this will at some point end just like the winter. |
| Form | -Terza Rhyma rhyme scheme- aba-bcb-cdc-ded, gives it a sense of movement, fluency, but also of change  -If the poem is split into five which is appears to be when the reader looks at it, it can be said to be a sonnet as there are fourteen lines in each part of the poem, so tension between fragmentation and cohesion  - the sonnet-like stanzas each have a theme within the overarching theme/idea of the poem  -Iambic pentameter is also present- “the wing’ed seeds where they lie cold and low, each like a corpse within its grave” |
| Overall structure | Four stanzas that each have 3 lines in them and then one stanza with 2 lines. This structure is repeated throughout the poem until the very end. |
| Language | Places in Italy are spoken about such as “Baeias’s bay” this appears to fit in well with the poem and provides it with a more mysterious quality. Language can also be negative and frightening with words such as “tremble” and “ghosts” this is emotive language. |
| Sound effects | In the second part of the poem when talking about the “dying year” the language accentuates this sense of mortality accentuated here to show anger perhaps, “sepulchre”, “congregated”. Assonance of “ashes” and “sparks” shows a more positive and softer ending to the poem. |
| Imagery | -The colour “blue” is talked about extensively in the poem and is placed with positive images such as the summer days in the Mediterranean.  -“Dead leaves” are referred to four times in the poem they symbolise the end of a season or more importantly perhaps the end of something in the speakers life. They have negative connotations when he compares his thoughts to "withered leaves,".  -Another element of nature is explored through water which is presented in the middle of the poem, this reflects Romantics view of the importance of nature. |
| Patterns of language | “Oh hear” repeated in first three stanzas. Gives the reader of the poem a real feel to the nature of the wind and emphasises that it is there. This gives it less of a surreal quality. |
| Punctuation and grammar | -A lot of commas and caesuras throughout the poem which may represent the different gales of wind as the reader has to naturally stop and start reading again just like the wind would stop and recommence.  -A question mark at the end of the poem “ if winter comes, Can spring be far behind?” this has a rhetorical effect. |
| Links to other poems | Tintern Abbey, poem is around nature and shows how powerful nature truly is. |