**Wordsworth's 'My Heart Leaps Up When I Behold' compared and contrasted with Rosetti's 'A Birthday'**

- Both talk about the heart - "my heart" is mentioned, Rosetti repeatedly in first stanza, whilst Wordworth opens with the line "my heart leaps up" but doesn't repeat the mention of the heart. Both seem to be talking about their hearts in terms of feeling upbeat, positive, linked with nature and happiness. Wordworth feels happy when seeing the beauty of nature, Rosetti likens the heart to nature using similes when feeling immense happiness about a loved one.

- Naturalistic imagery in both - both mention a "rainbow" - rainbows are beautiful elements of nature which appear after storms. Perhaps both poets are suggesting the joy they now feel in the wake of a tumultuous or negative event. For Rosetti this could be her past failed relationships, which have ended but now resulted in something beautiful, whether that her new love and feeling of happiness, either with a new partner or with God.

- Form: Rosetti has not written a 14-line asymmetrical sonnet as she usually does, instead she has written 16 lines, equally split between two 8-line stanzas - perhaps to reflect the balance and parity she now feels with her new requited love (rather than unrequited as other poems imply), as they become an equal partnership or married couple. OR if the poem is about God, she could be implying that her devotion can match God's love for her and for humanity, as she tries to display her devotion to worship, so much so that she wishes to build a throne for Him.

**William Wordsworth: My heart leaps up**

* Both have natural imagery. In ‘A birthday’ she says ‘my heart is like a rainbow shell’ and then Wordsmith says ‘a rainbow in the sky’. The connotations of ‘shell’ is death and containment whilst in Wordsworth there’s a sense of freedom associated with his imagery.
* Both about the process of aging the title ‘A birthday’ is an event celebrating getting older whilst in ‘My heart leaps up’ he says ‘when I shall grow old or let me die’. They both evoke a carefree attitude to aging, ‘A birthday’ is talking of an annual event yet Wordsworth appreciates that this is a continuous cycle.
* Both poems have biblical references in Wordsworth’s he says ‘the child is father of the man’ this has connotations to the holy trinity as well as the cycle of aging where everything returns to the ground i.e. ‘ashes to ashes’. Rossetti also took huge inspiration from her Anglo-Catholic beliefs, with her poetry advancing a Christian message.
* Both poems have a first person speaker, this makes the poems more like personal accounts. It also conveys more easily the intended tone of the poem which is contentment and excitement in both.

**Keats ‘Ode to a Nightingale’ and Rossetti’s ‘A Birthday’**

Context: 'Ode to a Nightingale' was written in 1819, when he was 23 years old. In 1818 Keats' brother Tom died from tuberculosis, which his mother also died from. When writing the poem, Keats had already started to experience the first symptoms of the disease and he died in 1821. In 1819 Keats visisted Wentworth Place in April and according to Charles Brown, "Ode to a Nightingale" was composed under a plum tree in the garden

* This poem is a regular ode which has 8 stanzas that have 10 pentameter lines and a uniform rhyme scheme.
* Although the poem is regular in form, it leaves the impression of being a kind of rhapsody; Keats is allowing his thoughts and emotions free expression.
* The metrical pattern is flexible the pattern on the first 7 lines and last two lines follow iambic pentameter.
* The rhyme scheme of this ode is ABABCDECDE throughout the poem.
* The poet uses alliteration in seventh stanza in “self-same song.” There is also an allusion to the Biblical tale of Ruth.
* The eighth stanza contains a simile: “Forlorn! The very word is like a bell / to toll me back from thee to my sole self!” The poet uses imagery throughout the poem, such as in the second stanza when he stimulates the sense of taste in “Tasting of Flora and the country green,” the sense of hearing as, “Provençal song,” and the sense of sight as in, “purple-stained mouth.”
* Assonance is used in the first stanza: “Of beechen green.” The poem also contains enjambment in different lines such as, “My sense, as though of hemlock I had drunk, / or emptied some dull opiate to the drains.”
* The syntax here does not make complete sense in a single line; rather, it carries the meaning to the next line

**Christina Rossetti- A birthday and John Keats- Ode to a nightingale:**

“My heart aches, and a drowsy numbness pain”

“My heart is like a singing bird”

* Negative portray of love and nature in ‘Ode to a nightingale’ opposite to Rossetti
* Keats discusses death, and nature being concealed whereas Rossetti discusses new life (A birthday)
* Caesura is used in Keats’ poem to show the breaking up of something, such as a relationship or even a person feeling broken; whereas Rossetti doesn’t as her poem is discussing possibly an engagement of two people.
* They both use first person “my heart”, “my sense” describing their own emotions throughout; the difference in the way the speakers are feeling in each of the poems. Rossetti seems to follow Keats in his description of their own personal emotions, “My heart is like an apple tree”

**Ode To Autumn in comparison to Birthday**

* Both poems refer to nature, using imagery of birds, plants and the elements which may be metaphoric of fertility, opportunity and love.
* Both poems hold a celebratory tone, Ode To Autumn for example relishes Autumn’s riches, and Birthday seems to signify appreciation for new found love, either love of life, God, or a person.
* Neither of these poems seem to address a particular person which may be significant, suggesting it’s about something bigger than them (e.g a higher power like destiny or faith).
* Both poems have a symmetrical structure, however Keats uses three stanzas (which may be a reference to the holy trinity) and Rossetti only uses two stanza’s, however often uses a lexis with triplets of words in a semantic field which may also be a reference to the Holy trinity given her strong religious outlook. The two stanza’s may represent two peoples love together, whereas Keats three stanza’s may reference a love of God (because of the indicator of the holy trinity).
* The theme of nature that is present in both poems may also be a religious reference of the garden of Eden.