M1: Rossetti revision

1. Zoe: Goblin Market
2. Anna: Memory
3. Lily: Maude Clare
4. Rachel: Ladies dressed in muslin
5. Lucy: The World
6. Alana: An Apple Gathering
7. Dori: A Christmas Carol
8. Ellie: Remember
9. Amber: Passing and Glassing
10. Rose C: Babylon the Great
11. Fabienne: Up hill
12. Rose H: Twice
13. Gina: As froth on the face of the deep
14. Dori: May
15. Maddie: A birthday
16. Hollie Echo
17. Alana: At home
18. Ellie: Piteous my rhyme is
19. Lily: A Helpmeet for him
20. Anna: Our Mothers lovely women pitiful
21. Lucy: What would I give?

Write about 4 poetic techniques. Select from:

* Narrative voice
* Characterisation
* Time/chronology
* Setting
* Form (structure) eg Petrarchan sonnet
* Rhyme/rhythm
* Symbolism/imagery
* Dialogue/speech

Explain how the technique has been used, evaluate its effect (relate to the message/purpose of the poem) and explore how/by what Rossetti has been influenced (historical, political, social context, biographical influences, earlier writers, particularly poets etc)

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| Title of poem: A Birthday | Date |  |
| Narrative technique identified | Relevant quote/s | Evaluation of technique, how it has been used, meaning and context/influence. |
| Symbolism/imagery | ‘singing bird,’  ‘nest is in a watered shoot,’  ‘an apple tree/Whose boughs are bent with the thickest fruit,’ | ‘singing bird’ – by describing her heart as this, she eludes to the idea that her song forms a natural part of herself and is an overflow of her identity  ‘watered shoot’ – indicates fertility and lushness that this love has provided her with which is enough for her to survive.  ‘an apple tree’ – as well as contributing to the idea of natural plenty, could also be a reference to the Biblical context of the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden which reminds the reader of the story of Adam and Eve living in bliss and harmony before their fall.  Rossetti uses the natural imagery in this poem as an outlet for self-expression of her own emotions through the speaker. |
| Narrative voice | ‘my heart…’  ‘the birthday of my life,’  ‘is come, my love is come to me,’ | Here, Rossetti uses a gender-less and name-less first-person narrative voice as they describe the greatest ‘love’ of their life. Rossetti uses the ambiguity of the narrative voice as a way to describe her own emotions whilst allowing the message of the poem to remain applicable to the lives of the reader. With her dedicated Christian faith there is a strong possibility the love she is describing is of God, however, the vagueness of the subject allows us to believe the speaker could be talking about a mortal man or woman (or even a child) as much as they could be talking about God. |
| Form/Rhyme | ‘shoot/fruit,’  ‘tree/sea/me,’  ‘dyes/eyes,’ | The poem is written in 2 stanzas of 8 lines (octet) with an iambic tetrameter rhythm. There is a uniform, regular rhyme scheme of ABCBDEFE for both stanzas. The regularity of the form is reflective of the orderly peace the speaker is feeling in this poem and Rossetti may have structured the poem in this way to seem more lyrical and reflect the form of a hymn. |
| Setting | ‘my heart,’  ‘raise me a dais of silk and down,’  ‘birthday of my life,’ | Though there is no physical setting in the poem, it can be argued it is set internally against the speakers own emotional backdrop. The anaphora of ‘my heart,’ allows the reader to believe the message of the poem comes directly from the heart which would indicate that’s where its set. In stanza 2 there is reference to a setting ‘dais of silk and down,’ but it is unclear if the speaker is talking metaphorically or literally (if she actually requires a podium to speak her mind from). Finally, the title and penultimate line suggest that the poem takes place on a birthday – though again this may be a metaphor for her happiness rather than a physical day of the year. |