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) e.g. 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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| A helpmeet for him | 1906 |  |
| Narrative technique identified | Relevant quote/s | Evaluation of technique, how it has been used, meaning and context/influence. |
| Symbolism/imagery | ‘Woman was made’ x3  ‘Charm’ | -Rossetti repeats ‘Woman was made’ three times, suggesting inspiration from the story of creation.  -The words surround the poem (being the first and last lines) and so it gives the impression that Rossetti wants the reader to notice and acknowledge this-that women were also made by God.  -This religious reading could also be put down to the questions arising at the time of Darwin’s evolution ideas. Rossetti was a dedicated Christian, and she might have wanted to enforce the ideas of the bible with her platform as a writer.  -The use of the word ‘Charm’ gives link to when Eve charmed Adam to eat the apple. Shows women’s power over men, but also, perhaps, their danger. |
| Narrative voice | ‘His shadow by day…his moon.’  ‘O woman! Be not afraid!’  ‘”A Helpmeet For Him”’ | -The narrative voice keeps an overbearing reference to male authority throughout the poem. The ‘shadow’ gives the impression of women being overlooked and dominated by men. The title even implies that women are made ‘For Him’.  -The second line in the poem ‘O Woman!...’ is addressing women and instructing them to not be afraid of men. This poem could be read as one empowering women and encouraging them to become independent (to a certain extent) of men.  -The title is shown in quotations, implying that this is a phrase that Rossetti, or the narrator, has heard before. Its placement could be being used to show the unfair expectations of women to exist for men (Which furthers the feminist reading of this poem, as it could be seen as Rossetti calling out this sexist expectation). |
| Form (structure) | ‘Woman was made for man’s delight’  ‘Him she stays, by whom she is stayed.’  ‘World-wide champion of truth and right.’ | -The first stanza shows an extremely male dominated, traditional view (‘Woman was made for man’s delight’).  -The second stanza shows a more equal relationship between men and women (‘Him she stays, by whom she is stayed’-as in She is loyal to those who are loyal to her)  -The third stanza focuses on women, lacking any specifically male references, whilst ‘World-wide champion’ could be referencing a man, it is also possible that Rossetti is describing women as ‘tender and faithful’ and champions of ‘truth and right’.  -The ending of the last stanza ‘Woman was made.’ Also contrasts with the first line, which progresses to say ‘for man’s delight’. Cutting the latter bit of that sentence gives women the right to exist for their own sake, and not for men. |
| Language | ‘Strength with weakness is overlaid.’  ‘World-wide champion of truth and right.’ | -Rossetti’s position of being a popular writer within traditional Victorian times means that she is unable to explicitly say anything controversial.  -‘Strength with weakness is overlaid’, this is stating that women’s pretence to seem week is how they survive, despite being internally strong. Rossetti is praising women for all that they do which is so often overlooked.  -‘World-wide Champion of truth and right’, Rossetti’s use of ‘Champion’ is well placed; whilst keeping a fairly tame description (focusing on morals rather than any actual power) she manages to convey an idea of a knight in shining armour to describe women. -She is able to get a message out (of Women being capable, strong women, without being radical in her views.) |