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| Title of poem | An Apple Gathering |  |
| Narrative technique identified | Relevant quote/s | Evaluation of technique, how it has been used, meaning and context/influence. |
| 1Form (structure)And Rhyme | Whole Poem | The regularity of the stanzas and rhymes scheme (ABAB) could show he misery and monotony of the speaker’s current situation.The simplicity of the rhyming words mirrors the innocence of the speaker. |
| 2Symbolism | ‘due season’‘plucked pink blossoms’‘wore them all that evening’‘found no apples there’ | The apple tree could represent fallen women, in the sense that Eve ate the apple when she wasn’t meant do, while the speaker ‘plucked pink blossoms’, meaning that she took fruit from the apple tree before she was meant to – both examples of falling into temptation. In the same way Eve is punished for eating the apple in the garden of Eden, the speaker is punished The apple tree could also represent fertility and youth, when the speaker was young, she took blossoms from the apple tree, entering a relationship before she should, instead of waiting for those blossoms to grow into apples, so when she’s old enough to be a mother, she cannot, as she is now undesirable because of her previous actions. |
| 3Characterisation | ‘Lilian and Lilias’‘Willie’ | Both names stem from the word lily, which in Christianity represents the Virgin Mary’s purity and innocence, showing that by being pure, and not having pre-marital sex, Lilian was able to collect apples, and have children.(A bit of a stretch but) Lona Mosk Packer's biography suggests that Rossetti was in love with the painter William Bell Scot, so this could be a reference to the relationship she never had? |
| 4Language | ‘mocked me’‘teased with a jeer’‘the night grew chill’ | Rossetti uses language to convey the worthlessness of not achieving the Victorian woman’s ‘purpose’. This language could either show how society really does look down on her, or show the self-inflicted shame she has, because of her nativity and the fact she cannot be a mother now.2 |
| Title of poem | At Home |  |
| Narrative technique identified | Relevant quote/s | Evaluation of technique, how it has been used, meaning and context/influence. |
| 1Imagery | “Feasting beneath green and orange bough”“sucked the pulp of plum and peach” | Oranges, plums and peaches are no native to England, and Oranges could never be grown here, giving their feast an artificial feel – reinforcing the idea that there is something not right about what’s happening. (harsh ‘s’s and ‘p’s also force you to read the poem with the same enthusiasm as the feasting friends). The sweet fruits they’re eating also have connotations of excess and gluttony, and the fruit in the garden of Eden – all connotations of temptation and sin.  |
| 2Language/symbolism | “tomorrow”“featureless sands” “Plod, plod”“before the turn of tide’“Achieve the eyrie-seat’ | The speaker’s friends’ optimism for ‘tomorrow could be interpreted as talk of gain entry into heaven. They talk about what they’ll do tomorrow, before the turn of tide, suggesting that while now they are indulging in feasts and gluttony that represent earthly sin, they intend to repent before it’s too late, but they keep shouting tomorrow, suggesting that thinking of tomorrow is an ongoing thing, and they may never actually get round to repenting, while the speaker “passed from the familiar room” meaning she alone has repented, while the others left behind – she has resisted temptation. |
| 3Language/Characterisation | “Tomorrow shall be like // today but much more sweet.”“Like the remembrance of a guest that tarrieth but a day” | The friends’ excitement about ‘tomorrow’ could also be used to highlight the speaker’s sadness that she has been forgotten.One thinks of their friends being pessimistic about the future without them, instead they are optimistic. On the other hand, it could be that with time, they have forgotten about her.Also, the idea that no individual matters, everyone is forgotten. |
| 4Setting | “At home”“Much frequented house”“I passed the door” | The title ‘At Home’, gives us thoughts of warmth and comfort, but the speaker then describes the ‘home’ as ‘much frequented house’, losing all the positive connotations, and making the place feel stark, contrasted with the celebrations her old friends are having, considering the speaker is dead, this makes the whole events seem quite mean spirited. The speaker says she passes through a door to see her friends, looking back into the mortal world instead of focusing on Heaven that laies infront of her. In the Geek myth of Orpheus and eyrodity – Orpheus looks back, in the same way the speaker looks back, does that mean she cannot go to heaven? |