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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| Passing and glassing | 1880 |  |
| Narrative technique identified | Relevant quote/s | Evaluation of technique, how it has been used, meaning and context/influence. |
| 1  Imagery and metaphors | “how her bloom must fade”  “wither’d roses”  “the fallen peach” | Imagery of flowers and nature is used as a metaphor for womanhood and the pressures of beauty. The image of flowers (which are typically delicate) can be used to suggest that the topic of beauty was (and still is) fragile and sensitive to women in society. The repetition of the word “wither’d” emphasises the inevitability of ageing and also implies a progressive withdrawal of youth and strength. Rossetti infers from the image of a “fallen peach” that as a woman ages, she loses her beauty and becomes less attractive in the eyes of men. This image can also suggest that a woman loses her sexual appeal and therefore men are less likely to be lead to temptation. It could be suggested that the use of the peach is a reflection of Rossettis religion and the story of Adam and Eve with the forbidden fruit. |
| 2  Use of Time | “passing and glassing”  “fade” | The title relates to the impermanence of time and the way a woman’s appearance inevitably changes as they grow older. The connotations of time in this poem are negative and portray ageing as damaging to a woman’s appearance and perhaps therefore their self-esteem and confidence. The idea of being “in the shade” suggests a form of shame for ones appearance. Since Rossetti wrote this poem later on in her career it is likely she wrote this about her expiring beauty, implying she was ashamed of herself and resented the fact that she had missed out on her chance of having a husband as men would no longer desire her now her youth was long gone. |
| 3  Anthesis | “hope and fear”  “good and ill” | Rossetti uses opposites perhaps to show the inner conflict women possess with their attitudes towards physical and inner beauty. It could also be representative of the conflict possessed by Rossetti in wanting to go against societies moulds through the use of her poems but also not wanting to be frowned upon. As well as this it could represent the inequality in society and the different ways men and women were treated at the time. This could relate to the contrast in society today and society when Rossetti was growing up. |
| 4  Repetition | “woman’s looking-glass”  “woman’s tiring-glass” | The repetition of a “woman’s looking-glass” emphasises the societal pressures of Victorian society to retain youth and beauty. It could be seen as a reminder that a woman’s beauty won’t last and eventually their maternal body clock will run out. This may relate to a persistent pressure that Rossetti may have felt during her life to have children before she no longer could and perhaps ageing to her is a good thing as her friends/family will have given up asking her about her plans to start a family, releasing her of societal pressure. |