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| Remember | Date published: 1962 |  |
| Narrative technique | Relevant quote/s | Evaluation of technique, how it has been used, meaning and context/influence. |
| 1  Structure: Sonnet | “Remember me when I am gone away.”  “ ^ … better by far you should forget and smile, than that you should remember and be sad.” | Sonnet: Usually connotes a romantic love – Rossetti was probably inspired by the romantics and pre-Raphaelites. The romantic interpretation is developed by the ambiguity of “gone away” instead of euphemising death it could be referencing a break up – hence the sonnet structure. This is build on through the last lines where the narrator makes a sacrifice of not being remembered claiming its better whoever “forgets and smiles” than “remembers and becomes sad,” this is an admirable and touching sentiment that you would only expect from someone who loved their intended reader. |
| 2  First Person and direct address | “When you can no longer hold me by my hand.”  … “Nor I half turn to go yet turning to stay.” | First person and direct address creates a level of intimacy which deepens the readers emotional attachment and relation to the poem; while maintaining a level of ambiguity which ensures a degree of universality. “When you can no longer hold me by my hand” could be interpreted as romantic as lovers hold hands as a sign of affection and could be the narrator reminiscing. Or it could be a sign of the second person losing power over the narrative voice, they can “no longer have a hold” on her. This could be her talking to her ex James Collinson and the patriarchal society where men had power over women; Rossetti never let this happen by never marrying. |
| 3  Repetition of Remember as an imperative | “remember me when” x2  “remember me”  “afterwards remember”  “you should remember” | The use of “remember” as an imperative gives Rossetti strength in a society where males were dominant, and women would have to be submissive to their imperatives and commands; the repetition of “remember” reinforces and emphasises this idea to establish its purposefulness.  It also suggests she is speaking to a past lover as the need to repeat it so often suggests he would may not be listening to her or he may be forgetting her so she needs to keep reminding him. It could also be a way to regain power over him and not be forgotten and cast away as insignificant – nor should see be remembered badly as if it was directed to Collinson she was engaged to him for 2 years and only broke up due to religious differences and he was a pre Raphaelite alongside her brothers therefore there can be presumed to be no bad blood between them; or at least that what is wanted by the narrator. |
| 4  Triadic structure | 4 lines = .  5 lines = .  7 lines = . | Triadic structure: Represent holy trinity as Rossetti was very religious; asked to be a nurse with Florence Nightingale, volunteered at High Gate, broke up engagement with Collinson over religion.  As it is a sonnet and references “you telling me of our future you planned” it could be about the break up and the meaningful structure could represent the reasons why she did it and showing her priorities and representing the structure of her life. |
| Piteous my Rhyme is | Date published: |  |
| Narrative technique | Relevant quote/s | Evaluation of technique, how it has been used, meaning and context/influence. |
| 1  No Title |  | Topic of the poem is love therefore the lack of title could be symbolic of the vastly abstract nature of love therefore Rossetti is showing there is no one word or phrase that could summarise what it is as it is too sublime a concept to pen down. Rossetti has struggled with love in her life having had 3 lovers / engagements all of which ended as she pursued a single, Christian and ambitious life which could justify why she struggled to concisely capture her emotions and her own definition of love. |
| 2  Binaries | “love and pain”  “dying man” “immortal” | “While I muse of love and pain.” Rossetti / the Narrator confesses to using love and pain as a muse and this is seen in all of Rossetti’s poetry as she explores sister love “GM” love affairs “Maude Clare” romantic love “remember” etc. Pain is also a key element and is seen as a side effect of love as it is present wherever love is. This could be due to Rossetti’s own experience of love: she was very close with her brother Dante, and her father who died in 1854, all three of her engagements all ended and she was alone and single in a society where every women was to be married and with children; her feelings about this are most prominent in Apple Gathering.  By using binaries Rossetti explores a relatable realism where she dismisses romanticism for reality where pain is often a consequence of love. |
| 3  Unorthodox Rhyme scheme:  ABBCCABBCD (?) | BB: “Pain … Vain”  CC: “Again … Then”  BB: “Span … Man” | Rossetti wrote this poem after she was critiqued for her rhyming and structuring of her poems; this was her retort. By skilfully playing around with her rhyme scheme whilst maintaining a rhythm she shows off and proves her high level of skill |
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