

## Poetry comparison - English/English Literature Coursework

Title:

Compare the poems *To Daffodils* by Robert Herrick, *The Daffodils* by William Wordsworth and *Miracle on St David's Day* by Gillian Clarke. You must comment on both subject matter and style.

- Refer to the notes you have made in class and the questions you have answered on each poem.
- You must use brief quotes throughout to support your point of view **state, quote, comment**.
- Compare the poems and link your paragraphs.

### Essay plan

**Opening paragraph:** Explain briefly what the three poems have in common and how they are different. Consider how each poet has been inspired by the daffodils and how the mood and structure of each poem reflects this.

*e.g. Each of the three poems show how the poets have been inspired to write about daffodils. Their poems however differ in structure and their responses to the daffodils are different. All of the poets use personification but the poems are written in contrasting styles.*

**Subsequent paragraphs:** Write about each poem in turn working through each poem methodically from the beginning commenting on the following:

1. Subject matter and theme. The significance of the title of each poem.
2. The choice of language and the intended effect – personification, assonance, alliteration, similes, metaphors, contrasts, repetition, linked images, tenses.

*e.g. From the very first word of Herrick's poem, "fair", the reader realises that the poet recognises the beauty of the daffodils. Yet in the same line his comment "we weep to see" suggests to the reader that the mood of his poem is sad.*

3. Line length and verse structure. Any changes which occur and how they may reflect the poet's feelings or mood.
4. Punctuation and its effect, use of caesura or enjambment.
5. Rhythm and rhyme where appropriate.

**Final paragraph:** Sum up your feelings about each poem and how successfully each poet has achieved his aim. State your personal preference giving reasons why.

### Assessment:

1. Detailed reference to the poems.
2. Comments on style and structure and how they reflect the poets' moods and intentions.
3. Detailed analysis of poetic techniques.
4. Comparison of poems.
5. Alternative readings.
6. Personal response.
7. Well-structured essay.

JA/5/00