

## SECTION A: UNSEEN POEM

You must answer Question 1 in the space below.

Sudith Nicholls presents the idea of winter through this 3 stanza poem. She introduces this idea as if winter is perhaps the enemy? I feel this because at the beginning of each stanza, she comments on how winter, crept through the whispering wood, how it prowled by the shivering sea and how it raced down the frozen stream. This also suggests that it could be perhaps bad that it is coming because she uses very powerful words that describe winter. These descriptive words are very powerful as it reminds me of a tiger who is creeping up on you when you least expect it. For me, before having read the poem, the title I would have expected the poet to be writing about the joys of winter although the title 'winter' has quite a broad overview. For good or for bad.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> stanza, the poet is talking about the winter of the forest, about how it has 'crushed each leaf and froze each web'. This is a very strong use of imagery. The poet is also referring to winter in the first stanza as a human being - a man. How he has 'crushed each leaf

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and froze each web, but never a word he spoke.' Could suggest that he is a man and that he feels no remorse for what he has done. As he also As the poet also said in that he crept, like creeping into a forest and pretending like he or it wasn't there as he didn't make a sound.

In the second stanza, Judith is still with the idea of prowling and being silent, but now she is talking about the sea, and how winter prowls, as if to catch its prey. (A limpet in this case) In this verse also, she is using lots of describing words again, her use of alliteration in this verse and also the first stanza, is also very descriptive. As in the first verse, she is talking about a whispering wood and in the second stanza she uses 'shivering sea' as if to say that either it is very cold out where the sea is, or the wind is blowing so hard so the sea would 'shiver.' Again these are very powerful images. As well as this using the term 'prowled' describes winter as being very sly, and in the last two lines 'nipped each limpet silently -

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and then moved on' suggests the 'prowling' side of it again. As if it doesn't want to be heard or know it is there.

In the third stanza, - 'winter raced' could suggest that as the stream is moving very quickly, it is quickly going in with the river. As if winter is in the river. The last couple of lines, could suggest that either someone has fallen into the river? Or perhaps that 'winter' in itself is a person's name? And it also <sup>could</sup> suggest that from the earlier two stanzas, that winter has finally received its prey as he might ~~of~~ slipped into the snow, and fallen into the icy river. He could also have been running from something (winter perhaps) or someone, 'catching at his breath; on his lips were icicles, as ~~as~~ his back was death.

In 'winter' there is no real rhyming scheme. This could be because when people use rhyme, some people believe that this takes away from the actual poem. If the poet did use rhyme, I feel it would lose the feeling of the predator lurking and about how winter is 'creeping' upon us.

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Although this poem is very short, it still gives a very strong message about the dangers of winter.

This poem has regular lines for effect and to add a ~~ex~~ pace to the poem.

The poet also conveys a strong sense of personification. Referring to winter as 'people creeping or prowling and 'catching at his breath' is also very strong personification.

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(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

**TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 20 MARKS**