

20th Century Poets

W.B. Yeats

"2nd Coming"

1st stanza - The world falling apart much like:

"Falcon cannot hear the falconer"

- people's attitudes are 2 extremes:

"best lack conviction"

"worst... passionate intensity"

2nd stanza

- Satan's time has come → Christ's time is over. And it all starts over again, this time with or 'innah hearts!

T.S. Eliot

"Hollow Men"

Eyes

-hollow men do nothing,
can't see eyes of people
who do something.

Refer also to Dante's

The Divine Comedy's
Nine Circles of Hell.

II

-series of images that
are negative:

'Sunlight on a broken column'
'tree swinging'

Disguises to not be seen by
those with Eyes.

III
— In hall, all are dead, stone,
useless

Religious comment - final lines.
Lips pray useless prayers to useless things
"Lips that should kiss pray to broken stone"

IV^N Gathering in hell, waiting, waiting.

No hope.

V. The Shadow is what prevents us

From: reality, acting, creating, responding, spasming,
existing, descending.

Shadow by not being able to complete the prayer.

All ends in a whimper, not a bang. This perhaps
may refer to Faulkner's dream of a band, but did not occur.

Dylan Thomas

A villanelle → (997) definition

"Do Not Go Gentle Into That Good Night"

- Fight death like all men do:

- wise men
- good men
- wild men
- grave men

And ultimately, please my father, you fight death too.

Dilfred Owen (814)

'Dulce et Decorum Est' (815)

An eyewitness account of war & he paints a very inglorious picture of it through imagery:

Soldiers ⇒ 'bent double like old beggars'

'knock-kneed'

'coughing like hags'

'blood-shed'

'drunk with fatigue'

Then... the gas & the horrible 'drowning in air' death.
Owen turns to us, the reader, for the final lesson → don't you dare lie and say to naive that this is glorious... it is anything but!

Stevie Smith

'Pretty'

↳ spec. ref to 'Pretty', show that the repetition of the word 'pretty' suggests that people's responses to the natural world are superficial."

-this is a question on a previous provincial exam

Answers:

-by saying nature is pretty we lose the complexity that nature is.

- We look only at the surface & it is so much deeper
→ we try to put humanity on nature and ignore its
cruelty & inherent viciousness

How does Smith achieve this?

- repetition → pretty, pretty, pretty. Notice by the
end of the poem to word itself is meaningless; just
a noise?

- use of odd animals & incidents in nature:

- water rat, owl, pike → all are... pretty

'sunlight tilting' on field → pretty

Margaret Atwood

'Disembarking at Quebec'

- see handout on The Journals of Susanna Moodie

Poem is a snapshot of the feelings and images of arriving at a new land

