

AQA GCSE English Literature - Expert Exam Prep

Before You Were Mine

Read **Before You Were Mine** by Carol Ann Duffy, in AQA's Love and Relationship cluster, then answer the following questions.

One sentence answers:

1. Give one piece of information you know about the poet, Carol Ann Duffy. **A03**
2. What is caesura? **A02**
3. The Marilyn mentioned in the poem is Marilyn Monroe. Why is this an effective comparison for her mother? **A02, A03**

Three sentence answers:

4. What is happening in this poem? Briefly explain the events. **A01**
5. The poem is written in the first person and in present tense. Why is this effective? **A02**
6. Which words or phrases show possessiveness in the poem? **A01, A02**

Paragraph answers:

7. Explain how the words and phrases you chose in the last question are effective. **A02**
8. What is unusual about the structure of this poem? Why is this effective? **A02**
9. How does the consistent stanza and line structure impact on the poem? **A02, A03**

Mini-essay answer:

10. Compare how poets present vivid childhood memories in **Before You Were Mine** and one other poem from the Love and Relationship cluster. **A01, A02, A03**

Remember!

When answering the Paper 2 poetry question, you will be tested on the following Assessment Objectives:

A01: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:

- maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response.
- use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.

A02: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

A03: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

