

Write your name here

Surname

Other names

**Pearson Edexcel Certificate**  
**Pearson Edexcel**  
**International GCSE**

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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# English Literature

## Paper 2: Unseen Texts and Poetry Anthology

Wednesday 21 January 2015 – Morning  
**Time: 1 hour 30 minutes**

Paper Reference

**4ET0/02**  
**KET0/02**

**You must have:**

Poetry Booklet – Section C of the Edexcel Anthology (enclosed)

Total Marks

### Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- You must answer **two** questions. Answer **one** question from Section A and **one** question from Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided  
– *there may be more space than you need.*

### Information

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets  
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Quality of written communication will be taken into account in the marking of your responses. Quality of written communication includes clarity of expression, the structure and presentation of ideas and grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Copies of the Edexcel Anthology for International GCSE and Certificate Qualifications in English Language and Literature may **not** be brought into the examination.
- Dictionaries may **not** be used in this examination.

### Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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**PEARSON**

## SECTION A

## Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

1 Read the following poem.

**In Mrs Tilscher's Class**

You could travel up the Blue Nile  
with your finger, tracing the route  
while Mrs Tilscher chanted the scenery.  
Tana. Ethiopia. Khartoum. Aswân. 5  
That for an hour, then a skittle of milk\*  
and the chalky Pyramids rubbed into dust.  
A window opened with a long pole.  
The laugh of a bell swung by a running child.

This was better than home. Enthralling books. 10  
The classroom glowed like a sweet shop.  
Sugar paper. Coloured shapes. Brady and Hindley\*  
faded, like the faint, uneasy smudge of a mistake.  
Mrs Tilscher loved you. Some mornings, you found  
she'd left a good gold star by your name. 15  
The scent of a pencil slowly, carefully, shaved.  
A xylophone's nonsense heard from another form.

Over the Easter term, the inky tadpoles changed  
from commas into exclamation marks. Three frogs  
hopped in the playground, freed by a dunce, 20  
followed by a line of kids, jumping and croaking  
away from the lunch queue. A rough boy  
told you how you were born. You kicked him, but stared  
at your parents, appalled, when you got back home.

That feverish July, the air tasted of electricity. 25  
A tangible alarm\* made you always untidy, hot,  
fractious\* under the heavy, sexy sky. You asked her  
how you were born and Mrs Tilscher smiled,  
then turned away. Reports were handed out.  
You ran through the gates, impatient to be grown, 30  
as the sky split open into a thunderstorm.

*Carol Ann Duffy*

\**a skittle of milk* – a small bottle of milk

\**Brady and Hindley* – a couple who murdered children in the 1960s

\**tangible alarm* – a feeling of tension

\**fractious* – irritable



How does the writer convey childhood memories in this poem?

In your answer you should consider:

- the poet's descriptive skills
- the poet's choice of language
- the poet's use of form and structure.

Support your answer with examples from the poem.

**(Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)**



OR

2 Read the following extract from *Cider with Rosie* by Laurie Lee.

*In this extract, Laurie Lee recalls his memories of his first day at school in a small village in 1920s England.*

This school, when I came to it, was at its peak. Universal education and unusual fertility had packed it to the walls with pupils. Wild boys and girls from miles around – from the outlying farms and half-hidden hovels way up at the ends of the valley – swept down each day to add to our numbers, bringing with them strange oaths and odours, quaint garments and curious pies. They were my first amazed vision of any world outside the womanly warmth of my family; I didn't expect to survive it for long, and I was confronted with it at the age of four.

5

The morning came, without any warning, when my sisters surrounded me, wrapped me in scarves, tied up my bootlaces, thrust a cap on my head, and stuffed a baked potato in my pocket.

10

'What's this?' I said.

'You're starting school today.'

'I ain't. I'm stopping 'ome.'

'Now, come on, Loll. You're a big boy now.'

'I ain't.'

15

'You are.'

'Boo-hoo.'

They picked me up bodily, kicking and bawling, and carried me up to the road.

'Boys who don't go to school get put into boxes, and turn into rabbits, and get chopped up Sundays.'

20

I felt this was overdoing it rather, but I said no more after that. I arrived at the school just three feet tall and fatly wrapped in my scarves. The playground roared like a rodeo\*, and the potato burned through my thigh. Old boots, ragged stockings, torn trousers and skirts, went skating and skidding around me. The rabble closed in; I was encircled; grit flew in my face like shrapnel\*. Tall girls with frizzled hair, and huge boys with sharp elbows, began to prod me with hideous interest. They plucked at my scarves, spun me round like a top, screwed my nose, and stole my potato.

25

I was rescued at last by a gracious lady – the sixteen-year-old junior-teacher – who boxed a few ears\* and dried my face and led me off to The Infants\*. I spent that first day picking holes in paper, then went home in a smouldering temper.

30

'What's the matter, Loll? Didn't he like it at school, then?'

'They never gave me the present!'

'Present? What present?'

'They said they'd give me a present.'



'Well, now, I'm sure they didn't.'

35

'They did! They said: "You're Laurie Lee, ain't you? Well, just you sit there for the present." I sat there all day but I never got it. I ain't going back there again!'

But after a week I felt like a veteran and grew as ruthless as anyone else.

*Laurie Lee*

\**rodeo* – an American cowboy competition

\**shrapnel* – pieces of an exploded bomb

\**boxed a few ears* – to slap someone's ears

\**The Infants* – the part of a school for the youngest children

Explain how the writer presents childhood memories in this extract.

In your answer you should consider:

- the writer's descriptive skills
- the writer's choice of language
- the writer's use of structure and form.

Support your answer with examples from the extract.

**(Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)**

**Begin your answer on page 6.**







(Section A continued)

Ruled writing area with horizontal dotted lines.











**SECTION B****Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.**

- 3** How is losing a parent or child presented in *Poem at Thirty-Nine* and *A Mother in a Refugee Camp*?

Support your answer with examples from the poems.

**(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)**

---

**OR**

- 4** Show how the poets convey their thoughts and feelings about close relationships in *Sonnet 116 'Let me not to the marriage...'* and **one other** poem from the Anthology.

Support your answer with examples from the poems.

**(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)**

---

**Begin your answer on page 13.**





(Section B continued)

Lined writing area with horizontal dotted lines for text entry.









(Section B continued)

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing.



(Section B continued)

Dotted lines for writing.

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 20 MARKS**  
**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 40 MARKS**



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# English Literature

**Paper 2: Unseen Texts and Poetry Anthology  
Poetry Booklet – Section C of the Edexcel Anthology**

Wednesday 21 January 2015 – Morning

**Time: 1 hour 30 minutes**

Paper Reference

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**Do not return this Poetry Booklet with the question paper.**

*Turn over* ►

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**PEARSON**

**If –**

If you can keep your head when all about you  
     Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
 If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
     But make allowance for their doubting too;  
 If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,                     5  
     Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
 Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
     And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream – and not make dreams your master;  
     If you can think – and not make thoughts your aim;   10  
 If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
     And treat those two impostors just the same;  
 If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
     Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
 Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,                 15  
     And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
     And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
 And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
     And never breathe a word about your loss;                 20  
 If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
     To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
 And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
     Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,                 25  
     Or walk with Kings – nor lose the common touch,  
 If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
     If all men count with you, but none too much;  
 If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
     With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,                     30  
 Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
     And – which is more – you'll be a Man, my son!

*Rudyard Kipling*

## Prayer Before Birth

I am not yet born; O hear me.

Let not the bloodsucking bat or the rat or the stoat or the  
club-footed ghoul come near me.

I am not yet born, console me.

I fear that the human race may with tall walls wall me, 5  
with strong drugs dope me, with wise lies lure me,  
on black racks rack me, in blood-baths roll me.

I am not yet born; provide me

With water to dandle me, grass to grow for me, trees to talk  
to me, sky to sing to me, birds and a white light 10  
in the back of my mind to guide me.

I am not yet born; forgive me

For the sins that in me the world shall commit, my words  
when they speak me, my thoughts when they think me,  
my treason engendered by traitors beyond me, 15  
my life when they murder by means of my  
hands, my death when they live me.

I am not yet born; rehearse me

In the parts I must play and the cues I must take when  
old men lecture me, bureaucrats hector me, mountains 20  
frown at me, lovers laugh at me, the white  
waves call me to folly and the desert calls  
me to doom and the beggar refuses  
my gift and my children curse me.

I am not yet born; O hear me, 25

Let not the man who is beast or who thinks he is God  
come near me.

I am not yet born; O fill me

With strength against those who would freeze my  
humanity, would dragoon me into a lethal automaton, 30  
would make me a cog in a machine, a thing with  
one face, a thing, and against all those  
who would dissipate my entirety, would  
blow me like thistledown hither and  
thither or hither and thither 35  
like water held in the  
hands would spill me.

Let them not make me a stone and let them not spill me.  
Otherwise kill me.

*Louis MacNeice*

## Half-past Two

Once upon a schooltime  
He did Something Very Wrong  
(I forget what it was).

And She said he'd done  
Something Very Wrong, and must 5  
Stay in the school-room till half-past two.

(Being cross, she'd forgotten  
She hadn't taught him Time.  
He was too scared of being wicked to remind her.)

He knew a lot of time: he knew 10  
Gettinguptime, timeyouwereofftime,  
Timetogohomenowtime, TVtime,

Timeformykisstime (that was Grantime).  
All the important times he knew,  
But not half-past two. 15

He knew the clockface, the little eyes  
And two long legs for walking,  
But he couldn't click its language,

So he waited, beyond onceupona,  
Out of reach of all the timefors, 20  
And knew he'd escaped for ever

Into the smell of old chrysanthemums on Her desk,  
Into the silent noise his hangnail made,  
Into the air outside the window, into ever.

And then, *My goodness*, she said, 25  
Scuttling in, *I forgot all about you.*  
*Run along or you'll be late.*

So she slotted him back into schooltime,  
And he got home in time for teatime,  
Nexttime, notimeforthatnowtime, 30

But he never forgot how once by not knowing time,  
He escaped into the clockless land of ever,  
Where time hides tick-less waiting to be born.

*U. A. Fanthorpe*



## Piano

Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me;  
 Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see  
 A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the tingling  
 strings  
 And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother who smiles as she  
 sings. 5

In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song  
 Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to belong  
 To the old Sunday evenings at home, with winter outside  
 And hymns in the cosy parlour, the tinkling piano our guide. 10

So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamour  
 With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour  
 Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast  
 Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the  
 past. 15

*D. H. Lawrence*

## Hide and Seek

Call out. Call loud: 'I'm ready! Come and find me!'  
 The sacks in the toolshed smell like the seaside.  
 They'll never find you in this salty dark,  
 But be careful that your feet aren't sticking out.  
 Wiser not to risk another shout. 5  
 The floor is cold. They'll probably be searching  
 The bushes near the swing. Whatever happens  
 You mustn't sneeze when they come prowling in.  
 And here they are, whispering at the door;  
 You've never heard them sound so hushed before. 10  
 Don't breathe. Don't move. Stay dumb. Hide in your blindness.  
 They're moving closer, someone stumbles, mutters;  
 Their words and laughter scuffle, and they're gone.  
 But don't come out just yet; they'll try the lane  
 And then the greenhouse and back here again. 15  
 They must be thinking that you're very clever,  
 Getting more puzzled as they search all over.  
 It seems a long time since they went away.  
 Your legs are stiff, the cold bites through your coat;  
 The dark damp smell of sand moves in your throat. 20  
 It's time to let them know that you're the winner.  
 Push off the sacks. Uncurl and stretch. That's better!  
 Out of the shed and call to them: 'I've won!  
 Here I am! Come and own up I've caught you!'  
 The darkening garden watches. Nothing stirs. 25  
 The bushes hold their breath; the sun is gone.  
 Yes, here you are. But where are they who sought you?

*Vernon Scannell*

**Sonnet 116 'Let me not to the marriage...'**

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments; love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove.  
O no, it is an ever-fixèd mark 5  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wandering bark,  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.  
Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks 10  
Within his bending sickle's compass come;  
Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom.  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

*William Shakespeare*

## La Belle Dame Sans Merci. A Ballad

I  
O what can ail thee, knight-at-arms,  
Alone and palely loitering?  
The sedge has withered from the lake,  
And no birds sing.

II  
Oh what can ail thee, knight-at-arms, 5  
So haggard and so woe-begone?  
The squirrel's granary is full,  
And the harvest's done.

III  
I see a lily on thy brow,  
With anguish moist and fever-dew, 10  
And on thy cheek a fading rose  
Fast withereth too.

IV  
I met a Lady in the meads  
Full beautiful – a faery's child,  
Her hair was long, her foot was light, 15  
And her eyes were wild.

V  
I made a garland for her head,  
And bracelets too, and fragrant zone;  
She looked at me as she did love,  
And made sweet moan. 20

VI  
I set her on my pacing steed,  
And nothing else saw all day long,  
For sidelong would she bend, and sing  
A faery's song.

VII  
She found me roots of relish sweet, 25  
And honey wild, and manna\*-dew,  
And sure in language strange she said –  
'I love thee true.'

VIII  
She took me to her elfin grot,  
And there she wept and sighed full sore, 30  
And there I shut her wild wild eyes  
With kisses four.

IX  
And there she lullèd me asleep  
And there I dreamed – Ah! woe betide! –  
The latest dream I ever dreamt 35  
On the cold hill side.

X  
I saw pale kings, and princes too,  
Pale warriors, death-pale were they all;  
They cried – 'La Belle Dame sans Merci  
Thee hath in thrall!' 40

XI  
I saw their starved lips in the gloam,  
With horrid warning gapèd wide,  
And I awoke and found me here,  
On the cold hill's side.

XII  
And this is why I sojourn here 45  
Alone and palely loitering,  
Though the sedge is withered from the lake,  
And no birds sing.

*John Keats*

\**Manna* – Food from heaven

### Poem at Thirty-Nine

How I miss my father. I wish he had not been so tired when I was born.	5	How I miss my father! He cooked like a person dancing in a yoga meditation and craved the voluptuous sharing of good food.	30
Writing deposit slips and checks I think of him. He taught me how. This is the form, he must have said: the way it is done. I learned to see bits of paper as a way to escape the life he knew and even in high school had a savings account.	10 15 20	Now I look and cook just like him: my brain light; tossing this and that into the pot; seasoning none of my life the same way twice; happy to feed whoever strays my way.	35 40
He taught me that telling the truth did not always mean a beating; though many of my truths must have grieved him before the end.	20 25	He would have grown to admire the woman I've become: cooking, writing, chopping wood, staring into the fire.	45

*Alice Walker*

## Telephone Conversation

The price seemed reasonable, location  
 Indifferent. The landlady swore she lived  
 Off premises. Nothing remained  
 But self-confession. "Madam", I warned,  
 "I hate a wasted journey – I am African." 5  
 Silence. Silenced transmission of  
 Pressurized good-breeding. Voice, when it came,  
 Lipstick coated, long gold-rolled  
 Cigarette-holder pipped. Caught I was, foully.  
 "HOW DARK?...I had not misheard..."ARE YOU LIGHT 10  
 OR VERY DARK?" Button B. Button A\*. Stench  
 Of rancid breath of public hide-and-speak.  
 Red booth. Red pillar-box. Red double-tiered  
 Omnibus squelching tar. It was real! Shamed  
 By ill-mannered silence, surrender 15  
 Pushed dumbfoundment to beg simplification.  
 Considerate she was, varying the emphasis –  
 "ARE YOU DARK? OR VERY LIGHT?" Revelation came.  
 "You mean – like plain or milk chocolate?"  
 Her accent was clinical, crushing in its light 20  
 Impersonality. Rapidly, wave-length adjusted,  
 I chose. "West African sepia" – and as afterthought,  
 "Down in my passport." Silence for spectroscopic  
 Flight of fancy, till truthfulness changed her accent  
 Hard on the mouthpiece. "WHAT'S THAT?" conceding 25  
 "DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS." "Like brunette."  
 "THAT'S DARK, ISN'T IT?" "Not altogether.  
 Facially, I am brunette, but madam, you should see  
 The rest of me. Palm of my hand, soles of my feet  
 Are a peroxide blond. Friction, caused – 30  
 Foolishly, madam – by sitting down, has turned  
 My bottom raven black – One moment, madam! – sensing  
 Her receiver rearing on the thunderclap  
 About my ears – "Madam," I pleaded, "wouldn't you rather  
 See for yourself?" 35

*Wole Soyinka*

\**Button A* – Buttons which had to be pressed when using a telephone in a public booth. Such telephones are no longer in use.

## Once Upon a Time

Once upon a time, son,  
 they used to laugh with their hearts  
 and laugh with their eyes;  
 but now they only laugh with their teeth,  
 while their ice-block-cold eyes 5  
 search behind my shadow.

There was a time indeed  
 they used to shake hands with their hearts;  
 but that's gone, son.  
 Now they shake hands without hearts 10  
 while their left hands search  
 my empty pockets.

'Feel at home!' 'Come again';  
 they say, and when I come  
 again and feel 15  
 at home, once, twice,  
 there will be no thrice –  
 for then I find doors shut on me.

So I have learned many things, son.  
 I have learned to wear many faces 20  
 like dresses – homeface,  
 officeface, streetface, hostface,  
 cocktailface, with all their conforming smiles  
 like a fixed portrait smile.

And I have learned, too, 25  
 to laugh with only my teeth  
 and shake hands without my heart.  
 I have also learned to say, 'Goodbye',  
 when I mean 'Good-riddance';  
 to say 'Glad to meet you', 30  
 without being glad; and to say 'It's been  
 nice talking to you', after being bored.

But believe me, son.  
 I want to be what I used to be  
 when I was like you. I want 35  
 to unlearn all these muting things.  
 Most of all, I want to relearn  
 how to laugh, for my laugh in the mirror  
 shows only my teeth like a snake's bare fangs!

So show me, son, 40  
 how to laugh; show me how  
 I used to laugh and smile  
 once upon a time when I was like you.

*Gabriel Okara*

## War Photographer

In his darkroom he is finally alone  
 with spools of suffering set out in ordered rows.  
 The only light is red and softly glows,  
 as though this were a church and he  
 a priest preparing to intone a Mass\*. 5  
 Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh. All flesh is grass.

He has a job to do. Solutions slop in trays  
 beneath his hands which did not tremble then  
 though seem to now. Rural England. Home again  
 to ordinary pain which simple weather can dispel,  
 to fields which don't explode beneath the feet  
 of running children in a nightmare heat. 10

Something is happening. A stranger's features  
 faintly start to twist before his eyes,  
 a half-formed ghost. He remembers the cries  
 of this man's wife, how he sought approval  
 without words to do what someone must  
 and how the blood stained into foreign dust. 15

A hundred agonies in black and white  
 from which his editor will pick out five or six  
 for Sunday's supplement\*\*. The reader's eyeballs prick  
 with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers.  
 From the aeroplane he stares impassively at where  
 he earns his living and they do not care. 20

*Carol Ann Duffy*

\**Mass* – A religious service

\*\**Sunday's supplement* – A regular additional section placed in a Sunday newspaper

## The Tyger

Tyger, Tyger, burning bright,  
In the forests of the night:  
What immortal hand or eye,  
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

In what distant deeps or skies 5  
Burnt the fire of thine eyes?  
On what wings dare he aspire?  
What the hand dare seize the fire?

And what shoulder, & what art, 10  
Could twist the sinews of thy heart?  
And when thy heart began to beat,  
What dread hand? & what dread feet?

What the hammer? what the chain?  
In what furnace was thy brain?  
What the anvil? what dread grasp 15  
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

When the stars threw down their spears  
And waterd heaven with their tears:  
Did he smile his work to see?  
Did he who made the Lamb make thee?\* 20

Tyger, Tyger burning bright,  
In the forests of the night:  
What immortal hand or eye,  
Dare frame thy fearful symmetry?

*William Blake*

*\*Did he who made the Lamb make thee – God*



## My Last Duchess

### Ferrara

That's my last Duchess painted on the wall,  
 Looking as if she were alive. I call  
 That piece a wonder, now: Frà Pandolf's hands  
 Worked busily a day, and there she stands.  
 Will't please you sit and look at her? I said 5  
 'Frà Pandolf' by design, for never read  
 Strangers like you that pictured countenance,  
 The depth and passion of its earnest glance,  
 But to myself they turned (since none puts by  
 The curtain I have drawn for you, but I) 10  
 And seemed as they would ask me, if they durst,  
 How such a glance came there; so, not the first  
 Are you to turn and ask thus. Sir, 'twas not  
 Her husband's presence only, called that spot  
 Of joy into the Duchess' cheek: perhaps 15  
 Frà Pandolf chanced to say 'Her mantle laps  
 Over my lady's wrist too much,' or 'Paint  
 Must never hope to reproduce the faint  
 Half-flush that dies along her throat': such stuff  
 Was courtesy, she thought, and cause enough 20  
 For calling up that spot of joy. She had  
 A heart – how shall I say? – too soon made glad,  
 Too easily impressed; she liked whate'er  
 She looked on, and her looks went everywhere.  
 Sir, 'twas all one! My favour at her breast, 25  
 The dropping of the daylight in the West,  
 The bough of cherries some officious fool  
 Broke in the orchard for her, the white mule  
 She rode with round the terrace – all and each  
 Would draw from her alike the approving speech, 30  
 Or blush, at least. She thanked men, – good! but thanked  
 Somehow – I know not how – as if she ranked  
 My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name  
 With anybody's gift. Who'd stoop to blame  
 This sort of trifling? Even had you skill 35  
 In speech – (which I have not) – to make your will  
 Quite clear to such an one, and say, 'Just this  
 Or that in you disgusts me; here you miss,  
 Or there exceed the mark' – and if she let  
 Herself be lessoned so, nor plainly set 40  
 Her wits to yours, forsooth, and made excuse,  
 – E'en then would be some stooping; and I choose  
 Never to stoop. Oh sir, she smiled, no doubt,  
 Whene'er I passed her; but who passed without  
 Much the same smile? This grew; I gave commands; 45  
 Then all smiles stopped together. There she stands  
 As if alive. Will't please you rise? We'll meet  
 The company below, then. I repeat,  
 The Count your master's known munificence  
 Is ample warrant that no just pretence 50  
 Of mine for dowry will be disallowed;  
 Though his fair daughter's self, as I avowed  
 At starting, is my object. Nay, we'll go  
 Together down, sir. Notice Neptune, though,  
 Taming a sea-horse, thought a rarity, 55  
 Which Claus of Innsbruck cast in bronze for me!

*Robert Browning*

### A Mother in a Refugee Camp

No Madonna and Child could touch  
 Her tenderness for a son  
 She soon would have to forget. . . .  
 The air was heavy with odors of diarrhea,  
 Of unwashed children with washed-out ribs 5  
 And dried-up bottoms waddling in labored steps  
 Behind blown-empty bellies. Other mothers there  
 Had long ceased to care, but not this one:  
 She held a ghost smile between her teeth, 10  
 and in her eyes the memory  
 Of a mother's pride. . . . She had bathed him  
 And rubbed him down with bare palms.  
 She took from their bundle of possessions  
 A broken comb and combed 15  
 The rust-colored hair left on his skull  
 And then – humming in her eyes – began carefully to part it.  
 In their former life this was perhaps  
 A little daily act of no consequence  
 Before his breakfast and school; now she did it 20  
 Like putting flowers on a tiny grave.

*Chinua Achebe*

Please note the American spelling of 'odors' 'diarrhea' 'labored' and 'colored'.  
 (English spellings: odours, diarrhoea, laboured and coloured.)

### Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night

Do not go gentle into that good night,  
Old age should burn and rave at close of day;  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Though wise men at their end know dark is right,  
Because their words had forked no lightning they 5  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Good men, the last wave by, crying how bright  
Their frail deeds might have danced in a green bay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

Wild men who caught and sang the sun in flight, 10  
And learn, too late, they grieved it on its way,  
Do not go gentle into that good night.

Grave men, near death, who see with blinding sight  
Blind eyes could blaze like meteors and be gay,  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light. 15

And you, my father, there on the sad height,  
Curse, bless, me now with your fierce tears, I pray.  
Do not go gentle into that good night.  
Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

*Dylan Thomas*

### Remember

Remember me when I am gone away,  
Gone far away into the silent land;  
When you can no more hold me by the hand,  
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.  
Remember me when no more day by day 5  
You tell me of our future that you planned:  
Only remember me; you understand  
It will be late to counsel then or pray.  
Yet if you should forget me for a while  
And afterwards remember, do not grieve: 10  
For if the darkness and corruption leave  
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,  
Better by far you should forget and smile  
Than that you should remember and be sad.

*Christina Rossetti*

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