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| L | Technique & Analysis |
| T | The title is ‘Valentine’ which suggests romance and love and couples and sex. It suggests that the poem is going to be happy and positive. |
| 1 | The **word choice** of the first line tells us that the speaker is rejecting traditional valentine’s day gifts. **Alliteration** is used on ‘red rose’ to draw attention to these traditional items. There is also **sibilance** on the ‘rose’ and ‘satin’ to make it sound harsh as it gives a hissing tone to the first line. |
| 2 | **Simple sentence.** The gift choice is weird – an onion. We are already wondering what the speaker is thinking here, why gift an onion? |
| 3 | **Metaphor –** Compares the onion to a moon, its skin to that of brown paper. There is a simpleness to the wrapping yet the actual gift is extravagant. There is also an association with sex here and lovers as the moon is clearly associated with night-time. |
| 4 | **Word choice – ‘**promises’ this hints at negativity. We know that promises can be broken. She could have confirmed it gave light by using ‘gives’ |
| 5 | **Simile** – ‘like the careful undressing of love’ The light is being compared to having sex as both things are supposed to bring happiness and positivity. |
| 6 | **Short sentence, command.** The word ‘here’ is blunt. The speaker is handing over the onion. It is moving in to a more aggressive tone. |
| 7 | **Word choice –** ‘blind’ ‘tears’ linked to the relationship. The people are unhappy, suggests there has been an argument. |
| 8 | **Simile –** ‘like a lover’. The lover is being compared to an onion. Sometimes our partners can upset us and make us cry like an onion makes you cry. |
| 9-10 | She is suggesting here that the onion will make you cry again, reinforcing the idea that it upsets you, which is a continuation of the idea that lovers will make you cry. It is still suggestive of a bad relationship or one that has ended badly. |
| 11 | **Statement**  - ‘I am trying to be truthful’. **Alliteration** of ‘trying’ and ‘truthful’ draws attention to her point. It is also **plosive** making the words sound hard. It is set on its own to make it stand out now. She is basically telling us that relationships will upset you. |
| 12 | **Repetition** of style. ‘Not a cute card or a kissogram’. She is reiterating that relationships aren’t about the traditional romantic things all the time. There is **plosive alliteration** on the ‘c’ and ‘k’ to heighten the aggressive tone. |
| 13 | **Repetition –** repeats that the gift is an onion. Emphasises the oddness of this gift. |
| 14 | **Word choice –** ‘fierce kiss’ hints at danger of the relationship. “stay on your lips” the memory and passion of kissing someone is similar to the tang of the onion. |
| 15 | **Word choice** again of ‘possesive’ and ‘faithful’ . Faithful suggests the positive aspects of a relationship. That they are loving and loyal to one another. However, ‘possessive’ has connotations of jealousy, distrusts and control. |
| 17 | ‘for as long as we are ‘ hints at the impending end of a relationship. Suggests all relationships will end. |
| 18 | **Word choice** ‘take it’. It is commanding and insistent with the imperative command. It is very forcefully said. It is almost shouted. |
| 19 | Introduces idea of marriage – the typical direction a relationship takes. The **metaphor** of ‘platinum loops shrink to a wedding ring’ brings the topic into the poem. **Word choice** of ‘platinum’ suggests the cool white/silver colour of the onion but also the colour of wedding rings. This is expensive metal suggesting the expense of weddings. **Word choice** of ‘shrinks’ suggests that marriage is suffocating or restrictive. |
| 21 | **Word choice** she sums up marriage with ‘lethal’ – basically saying it is dangerous and deadly. Also death of the individual as you become a couple. |
| 22-23 | Word choice ‘cling’ suggests that the relationship (good or bad) will last in your memories after it has gone. |
| 23 | Word choice ‘knife’ takes this back into negative territory. Suggests that relationships are sharp and can bring pain. |
| FORM | Free verse in irregular stanzas represents the rejection of traditional values which the poem is all about as it rejects marriage. |
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