

## 'Porphyria's Lover' – Essay Plan

### Essay Question:

Choose a poem which encourages you to think differently or to understand something in a new way.

Discuss how the poet's ideas and techniques led you to change your thinking or understanding.

<u>Introduction</u>	<u>Main Body Paragraph</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Title – 'Porphyria's Lover'	Topic Sentence – Give context, mention any techniques, link to essay Q	Title
Author – Robert Browning	Evidence – Quote from text	Author
Reference to the essay question – Understanding love as obsession	Analysis – Comment on the quotation. Explain your annotations	Reference to essay Q
Techniques – pathetic fallacy, personification, repetition	Refer back to Q – Link paragraph to essay Q	Recap the main points of your essay
Brief		Sum up your answer to the essay Q
Outline		

### Plan:

#### Introduction

P1 – He loves her and is waiting on her

"it tore the elm... I listened with heart fit to break"

Focus on pathetic fallacy. Word choice of 'tore', 'vex', 'spite'. Sense of desperation. Suggesting obsessive feeling

P2 – She arrives + brightens up the place

"when glided in Porphyria straight... blaze up"

Shift in tone from opening lines. Porphyria is the reason for speaker being uneasy. Comment on 'cheerless grate'. Comment on 'blaze up'

P3 – He gets annoyed by her actions

“murmuring how she loved me... set its struggling passion free”

Comment on ‘murmuring’. Feelings are taking a dark turn. Her claim to love is weak. Comment on ‘pride and vainer ties’. Comment on ‘give herself’. Fully explain impact of ‘forever’.

P4 – He strangles her

“A thing to do... no pain felt she”

Comment on simple nature of statement. Comment on ‘little throat’. Comment on inversion. Comment on caesura. Explain repetition of ‘no pain’.

P5 – He sits with the dead body

“and thus we sit... not said a word”

Comment on anaphora. Speaker cannot move past this moment. Fixation on Porphyria. Comment on last line as a challenge to Victorian society and religious judgement. Comment on how the speaker feels righteous.

Conclusion

## 'Porphyria's Lover' – Essay Plan

### Essay Question:

Choose a poem in which the writer challenges accepted beliefs or attitudes or conventions.

With reference to appropriate techniques, discuss how the poets challenge of these enhances your appreciation of the poem as a whole.

<u>Introduction</u>	<u>Main Body Paragraph</u>	<u>Conclusion</u>
Title – 'Porphyria's Lover'	Topic Sentence – Give context, mention a technique, link to essay Q	Title
Author – Robert Browning	Evidence – Quote from text	Author
Reference to the essay question – challenges beliefs about love	Analysis – Comment on the quotation. Explain your annotations	Reference to essay Q
Techniques – pathetic fallacy, personification, repetition	Refer back to Q – Link paragraph to essay Q	Recap the main points of your essay
Brief		Sum up your answer to the essay Q
Outline		

### Plan:

#### Introduction

P1 – Traditional views on love are explored

"the sullen wind was soon awake,

It tore the elm-tops down for spite,

And did its worst to vex the lake"

Focus on pathetic fallacy. Word choice of 'tore', 'vex', 'spite'. Sense of desperation. Suggesting speaker is unhappy without his love.

"When glided in Porphyria; straight

She shut the cold out and the storm,  
And kneeled and made the cheerless grate  
Blaze up..."

Comment on how Porphyria brightens the mood. Explain all annotations

P2 – Beliefs about love are beginning to be challenged by suspicion.

"Too weak, for all her heart's endeavour,  
To set its struggling passion free  
From pride, and vainer ties dissever,  
And give herself to me forever."

Comment on how the speaker is becoming uneasy with love and it is no longer all happy.

P3 – Beliefs about love are challenged by looking at obsessive behaviour

"murmuring how she loved me... set its struggling passion free"  
"Porphyria worshipped me; surprise  
Made my heart swell, and still it grew  
While I debated what to do"

Comment on speaker's desire to own Porphyria.

P4 – Beliefs about love are challenged by the speaker murdering his one true love

"A thing to do, and all her hair  
In one long yellow string I wound  
Three times her little throat around  
And strangled her. No pain felt she;"

Comment on violence of action jars with the idea of love.

P5 – Beliefs about love are challenged with necrophilia ideas

"And thus we sit together now,  
And all night long we have not stirred,  
And yet God has not said a word!"

Comment on anaphora. Speaker cannot move past this moment. Fixation on Porphyria. Comment on last line as a challenge to Victorian society and religious judgement. Comment on how the speaker feels righteous.

Conclusion