A: In ‘If I Should Die’, how does the poet present the speaker’s feelings about her inevitable death?

B: In both ‘If I Should Die’ and ‘On the Death of Anne Brontë’ the speakers describe feelings about death and the feelings of those left behind. What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present those feelings?
### I WANDERED LONELY AS A CLOUD

William Wordsworth

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I wandered lonely as a cloud</th>
<th>With wind and the weather beating round me</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That floats on high o’er vales and hills,</td>
<td>Up to the hill and the moorland I go.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When all at once I saw a crowd,</td>
<td>Who will come with me? Who will climb with me?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A host, of golden daffodils;</td>
<td>Wade through the brook and tramp through the snow?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beside the lake, beneath the trees,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

---

### INVITATION

Sri Aurobindo

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With wind and the weather beating round me</th>
<th>Not in the petty circle of cities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to the hill and the moorland I go.</td>
<td>Cramped by your doors and your walls I dwell;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who will come with me? Who will climb with me?</td>
<td>Over me God is blue in the welkin,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wade through the brook and tramp through the snow?</td>
<td>Against me the wind and the storm rebel.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I sport with solitude here in my regions,
Of misadventure have made me a friend.
Who would live largely? Who would live freely?
Here to the wind-swept uplands ascend.

I am the Lord of tempest and mountain,
I am the Spirit of freedom and pride.
Stark must he be and a kinsman to danger
Who shares my kingdom and walks at my side.

---

**A:** In ‘I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud’, how does the poet present his respect for the beauty of nature?

**B:** In both ‘I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud’ and ‘Invitation’ the speakers describe walking alone through landscapes and engaging with nature. What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present those feelings?
IN THE CAN

Every second is a fishbone that sticks
In the throat. Every hour another slow
Step towards freedom. We’re geriatrics
Waiting for release, bribing time to go.
I’ve given up trying to make anything
Different happen. Mornings: tabloids, page three.
Afternoons: videos or Stephen King,
Answering letters from relatives who bore me.
We’re told not to count, but the days mount here
Like thousands of identical stitches
Resentfully sewn into a sampler,
Or a cricket bat made out of matches.
Nights find me scoring walls like a madman,
Totting up runs: one more day in the can.

Rosie Jackson

HUMAN INTEREST

Fifteen years minimum, banged up inside
for what took thirty seconds to complete.
She turned away. I stabbed. I felt this heat
burn through my skull until reason had died.
I’d slogged my guts out for her, but she lied
when I knew different. She used to meet
some prick after work. She stank of deceit.

I loved her. When I accused her, she cried
and denied it. Straight up, tore me apart.
On the Monday, I found the other bloke
had bought her a chain with a silver heart.

When I think about her now, I near choke
with grief. My baby. She wasn’t a tart
or nothing. I wouldn’t harm a fly, no joke.

Carol Ann Duffy

A: In ‘In the Can, how does the poet present the idea of waiting to be released from Prison?

B: In both ‘In the Can and ‘Human Interest’ the poets present the speakers feelings and emotions they experience while in prison. What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present those feelings?
A: In ‘The Book of Matches’ extract, how does the poet present the speaker’s feelings about the effects of peer pressure?

B: In both ‘The Book of Matches’ extract and ‘Teenage Rebellion’ the speakers describe the feelings of teenage rebellion. What are the similarities and/or differences between the ways the poets present those feelings?

**THE BOOK OF MATCHES (EXTRACT)**

My father thought it bloody queer, 
the day I rolled home with a ring of silver in my ear 
half hidden by a mop of hair. "You've lost your head. 
If that's how easily you're led 
you should've had it through your nose instead."

And even then I hadn't had the nerve to numb the lobe with ice, then drive a needle through the skin, 
then wear a safety-pin. It took a jeweller's gun to pierce the flesh, and then a friend to thread the sleeper in, and where it slept the hole became a sore, became a wound, and wept.

At twenty-nine, it comes as no surprise to hear my own voice breaking like a tear, released like water, cried from way back in the spiral of the ear. If I were you, I’d take it out and leave it out next year.

_Simon Armitage_

**TEENAGE REBELLION**

Refusing to acknowledge my adulthood status, 
My passage followed by hostile criticizing eyes. 
Declaring my actions misguided when they hold bias. 
I am launched onto a battlefield without allies.

Rejected.
Tormented.
Condemned.
Just feed it to the fire.

Dodging grenades saturated with judgement, 
Scaling walls because doors remain absent, 
Cautiously traversing around their glass tempers, 
A difficult feat since it stretches across acres.

Yet they speak to me with malice, 
And treat me as if I were a menace. 
Fuel to my fire.

Their accusations discounted, I no longer care. 
I refuse to be extinguished, I decline to be silent. 
My fiery soul is voracious and ready to ensnare. 
The adversary claims that I am an adolescent, well then, I will give them a Teenage Nightmare.

_Brittney Follet_
A: In ‘Decomposition’, how does the poet present her feelings about the photograph she took?

B: In both ‘Decomposition’ and ‘Tramp’, the speakers write about individuals on the edge of society. What are the similarities, and/or differences between the ways the speakers express these feelings?
A: How does the poet present the woman’s life in ‘The Habit of Light’?

B: Both ‘The Habit of Light’ and ‘At Sea’ convey emotions. What are the similarities and/or differences in the way these emotions are expressed?
**A:** How are ideas about the future presented in ‘It’s Poisoning Down’?

**B:** Both ‘It’s Poisoning Down’ and ‘Fate’s Tools’ present negative feelings about the world. What are the similarities and/or differences in the way these ideas are presented?
Question Set 8

COLD
Tonight the brittle trees rattled and snapped in wind and the stars broke trembling like shattered ice.
Logs and frozen heather creaked and starlight shook under our feet.

My son and I went on to the moor, walking under drapes of a low sky.
A skull cracked underfoot; a tarred roof winked; a snowball fell; then quiet that seemed to glow.
We came indoors when we had stared at snow.

Now we change our places at the hearth like penguins on an ice floe. Draughts enter through wall and roof; the swords of cold sneak through our warmth like poison threading liquid in a glass.

FROM THE NIGHT WINDOW
The night rattles with nightmares.
Children cry in the close packed houses. A man rots in his snoring.
On quiet feet, policemen test doors. Footsteps become people under streetlamps.
Drunks return from parties. Sounding of empty bottles and old songs.
The young women come home. The pleasure in them deafens me. They trot like small horses and disappear into white beds.
At the edge of night All windows open this hot night, And the sleepless, smoking in the dark, Making small red lights with their mouths, Count the years of their marriages.

Douglas Dunn

Glyn Hughes

A: How does the poet present his ideas about the weather in ‘Cold’?

B: Both ‘Cold’ and ‘From the Night Window’ describe feelings about the night. What are the similarities and/or differences in the way these ideas are presented?
Question Set 9

**IN OAK TERRACE**

Old and alone, she sits at nights,
Nodding before the television.
The house is quiet now. She knits,
rises to put the kettle on,

watches a cowboy’s killing, reads
the local Births and Deaths, and falls
asleep at ‘Growing stock-piles of war-heads’.
A world that threatens worse ills

fades. She dreams of life spent
in the one house: suffers again
poverty, sickness, abandonment,
a child’s death, a brother’s brain

melting to madness. Seventy years
of common trouble; the kettle sings.
At midnight she says her silly prayers,
and takes her teeth out, and collects her night-

things.

*Tony Connor*

**NAMES**

she was Eliza for a few weeks
When she was a baby –
Eliza Lilly. Soon it changed to Lil.

Later she was Miss Steward in the baker’s shop
And then ‘my love’, ‘my darling’, Mother.

Widowed at thirty, she went back to work
As Mrs Hand. Her daughter grew up,
Married and gave birth.

Now she was Nanna. ‘Everybody
Calls me Nanna,’ she would say to visitors.
And so they did – friends, tradesmen, the doctor.

In the geriatric ward
They used the patients’ Christian names.
‘Lil’, we said, ‘or Nanna.’

But it wasn’t in her file
And for those last bewildered weeks
She was Eliza once again.

*Wendy Cope*

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A: How does the poet present ideas of old age in his poem, ‘In Oak Terrace’?

B: Both ‘In Oak Terrace’ and ‘Names’ describe ideas about the passing of time. What are the similarities and/or differences in the way these ideas are presented?
A: How does the poet present his feelings about the mountains?

B: Both ‘Below the Green Corrie’ and ‘Spellbound’ describe strong feelings about nature. What are the similarities and/or differences in the ways the speakers present these feelings?