**1 Poem Review**

**A Personal information**

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**B Answer the following questions in English:**

***The writer***

1 a The writer of this poem is Wystan Hugh Auden.

b Wystan Hugh Auden was an English poet and essayist. He was bron at 21 February 1907 in York and he died at 29 September 1973 aged 66. The author’s poetry is renowned for its hisstylistic and technical achievement, its engagement with politics, morals, love, and religion, and its variety in tone, form and content. He is best known for love poems such as "[Funeral Blues](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Funeral_Blues)"; poems on political and social themes such as "[September 1, 1939](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/September_1,_1939)" and "[The Shield of Achilles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Shield_of_Achilles)"; poems on cultural and psychological themes such as [The Age of Anxiety](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Age_of_Anxiety); and poems on religious themes such as "[For the Time Being](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/For_the_Time_Being)" and "[Horae Canonicae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horae_Canonicae)".

c I used the website: poetryfoundation.org

***The poem***

2 a The title of the poem is Funeral Blues

b The poem illustrates a funeral scenario where the writer expresses his sadness over the loss of a loved one, and the respect and silence that was present, followed by past memories. So that explaines the first part of the title. I think the poem is called funeral *blues*, because the colour blue is related to sadness. The writer of this poem seems to be very sad about his recent loss. So I think that’s why the title of the poem ends with *blues.*

c I think that the title most definitely fits the poem, because the first part (funeral) describes the occasion that is noted in the poem. And the second part (blues) describes the sad feeling you get when you read the poem (blue is a sadness-related colour).

3 a The poem was written in 1938 and published in 1940.

b The only thing why I would think that the time the poem was written is significant for the poem, is that the poem expresses sadness in an unusual way for the time it was written in. That is one of the reasons why this poem is so well-known. So if the poem was written in a time where the way Auden expresses sadness was usual, the poem would not be so well-known. So that is why the time the poem was written in is significant for the poem.

c I did not use any (online) sources except my own knowledge.

4 a The poem tells the story of somebody who has passed away and how that has affected the writer. The writer feels as if their world has been destroyed.

b I think the main theme of the poem is grief. I cannot discover an underlying meaning in this poem.

c The poem does have other themes, such as love and death.

d The writer has lost a loved one so he is grieving that is what the poem is all about. That is the reason why grief is the main theme of the poem. The writer’s loved one is dead, so death is a theme as well. Then love is a theme in this poem because if the writer would not love the person that has passed away. He would not be in such grief.

e I used the website aresearchguide.com to get help with looking for themes in a poem, and for examples of themes.

5 a The genre of this poem is in my opinion dystipia.

b Dystopia expresses sadness and sorrow. The poem is about death and mourning and is really sad and full of sorrow. If you look at this sentence from the poem: “I thought that love would last for ever, I was wrong” you will know what I mean.

c I used the Wikipedia list of genres to learn about different kinds of poems.

***The poem’s structure***

6 a The poem consists of four stanzas. Each stanza consists of four lines. So the poem consists of 16 lines.

b How is the poem organised? Think about poem types such as ballads, quatrains, sonnets, elegies or free verse, for example. Funeral Blues" is an elegy, a poem written about someone who has died. Each stanza consists of four lines, so that means the poem consists of four quatrains.

c I used two sites: enotes.com and encyclopedia.com

7 a Rhyme is used in this poem. The rhyme scheme is AABB CCDD EEFF GGHH, with each stanza containing two rhymed couplets. Alliteration is used in lines 1+3, 5+8, 10+11 and 14+15.

b I used my own knowledge.

***C Your own opinion***

8 a+b I found that some of the lines in the poem were spectacular, such as “Let aeroplanes circle moaning overhead”, and “Put crepe bows round the white necks of the public doves”. The poem draws you in with its simple rhymes, and then quickly grows sorrowful. There’s a lot of imagery packed into the short poem, and it manages to convey a lot of emotion in its simply worded lines. It leaves me struck with the author’s feeling that the world has stopped still and the sadness will never go away, the darkness never ending. Nothing has any use, without this man nothing is of any good. I especially enjoyed the simple sad truth in the line “I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong”. The last lines as well are very haunting.

9 I think the poem matches any film about grief and death and mourning. But of the films I’ve seen and the books I’ve read, I think this poem matches the Disney film “Up!” the most. Because that film is about an old man who has lost his wife, so his loved one, just like in this poem and in the film he is grieving about that. I think the poem matches the series “After life” as well, because of the same reason as I think the film “Up!” matches the poem.