

tony harrison v poem

tony harrison v poem is a phrase that often sparks curiosity among poetry enthusiasts, students, and critics alike. It references a specific work by the renowned British poet Tony Harrison, a poet celebrated for his profound social commentary, distinctive voice, and mastery of language. The "V" in the phrase alludes to the poem's title or the Roman numeral five, which may link to a particular poem or collection within Harrison's extensive oeuvre. This article aims to explore the significance of the "V" poem, delving into Tony Harrison's poetic style, themes, and the impact of his work, with a focus on understanding what makes the "V" poem a notable piece in his collection.

Who Is Tony Harrison?

Background and Career

Tony Harrison was born in 1937 in Leeds, England. His upbringing in a working-class environment profoundly influenced his poetry, which often grapples with issues of social justice, cultural identity, and the human condition. Harrison studied Classics at Oxford University, and his education deeply informs his poetic language and themes. Over the decades, he has established himself as a voice of social conscience, blending classical references with contemporary issues.

Literary Style and Influences

Harrison's poetry is characterized by its lyrical quality, vivid imagery, and incisive social critique. He often employs formal poetic structures, including sonnets and traditional meters, but also experiments with free verse and innovative language. Influences include classical poetry, modernist writers, and his own experiences of working-class life.

The "V" Poem: An Overview

What Does "V" Signify?

The "V" in "Tony Harrison V poem" can refer to several things:

- A specific poem titled with the letter "V"
- A collection or series of poems marked by the Roman numeral five
- The thematic emphasis on victory, conflict, or a particular motif starting with "V"

In Harrison's oeuvre, the most notable "V" reference is his poem "V" (or "V" poem), which encapsulates themes of war, conflict, and personal memory. This poem exemplifies his ability to blend historical reflection with personal narrative.

Context of the "V" Poem

The poem "V" was written in the aftermath of conflicts, possibly reflecting on the Vietnam War or other conflicts that shaped Harrison's outlook. It serves as an elegy, a meditation, and a critique, inviting readers to consider the costs of violence and the resilience of the human spirit.

Themes Explored in the "V" Poem

War and Conflict

One of the central themes of the "V" poem is the devastation wrought by war. Harrison examines the physical and emotional scars left by conflict, emphasizing its dehumanizing effects. The poem may depict the horrors faced by soldiers and civilians alike, urging reflection on the true cost of violence.

Memory and History

Harrison often intertwines personal memory with historical events, and the "V" poem is no exception. It explores how collective history is memorialized and how individual memories shape our understanding of the past. The poem may include vivid imagery and references to specific events or figures, grounding abstract themes in concrete details.

Cultural Identity and Class

Harrison's background influences his focus on social class and cultural identity. The "V" poem might explore the disparities faced by working-class communities affected by war or political upheaval, emphasizing the importance of social justice.

Resilience and Hope

Despite the somber themes, Harrison's poetry often contains elements of resilience and hope. The "V" poem may gesture towards the possibility of reconciliation, understanding, or the enduring human spirit amid adversity.

Stylistic Features of the "V" Poem

Use of Classical Allusions

Harrison's classical education shines through in his poetry. The "V" poem likely incorporates references to ancient Greece or Rome, drawing parallels between historical conflicts and contemporary issues.

Vivid Imagery and Symbolism

Harrison employs stark imagery to evoke emotional responses. The "V" may symbolize victory, defeat, or the letter's shape representing wounds or scars.

Formal Structure and Language

While Harrison can be experimental, he often employs formal structures that lend gravity to his themes. The "V" poem may be structured as a sonnet, elegy, or free verse, depending on the emotional tone.

Personal Voice and Direct Address

Harrison's poetry frequently involves direct address to the reader or specific individuals, creating an intimate and urgent tone. The "V" poem likely features this approach, making its message more impactful.

Critical Reception and Interpretation

How Critics View the "V" Poem

Critics have praised Harrison for his ability to confront difficult subjects with honesty and poetic finesse. The "V" poem is often lauded for its emotional depth, historical insight, and stylistic mastery.

Common Interpretations

- A reflection on the futility and tragedy of war
- A call for remembrance and acknowledgment of suffering
- An exploration of personal and collective memory

Readers interpret the "V" poem differently, depending on their perspectives on war, history, and social justice. Its layered symbolism invites multiple readings.

The Significance of the "V" Poem in Harrison's Body of Work

As a Reflection of Harrison's Themes

The "V" poem encapsulates many of the recurring themes Harrison explores throughout his career. It exemplifies his concern with social justice, history, and human resilience.

Its Impact on Readers and Critics

The poem continues to resonate due to its universal themes and poetic craftsmanship. It challenges readers to confront uncomfortable truths and reflect on their own histories.

Its Place in Literary and Political Discourse

Harrison's "V" poem contributes to broader conversations about war, memory, and justice, making it a significant piece within contemporary poetry.

Conclusion

In exploring "Tony Harrison V poem," we uncover a multifaceted work that exemplifies the poet's mastery of language, his social conscience, and his ability to weave personal and historical narratives. Whether viewed as an elegy, a critique, or a meditation, the "V" poem remains a powerful testament to the enduring relevance of Harrison's poetry. It invites us to reflect on the costs of conflict and the resilience required to remember and learn from the past. As such, it holds a vital place in both Harrison's oeuvre and the wider landscape of modern British poetry.

Additional Resources for Further Reading

- Collections of Tony Harrison's Poetry, including *The Looring* and *V* (if applicable)
- Critical essays on Harrison's work, focusing on themes of war and memory
- Interviews with Tony Harrison discussing his poetic influences and perspectives
- Academic analyses of the "V" poem, exploring its symbolism and historical context

By engaging deeply with the "V" poem, readers gain insight into Harrison's poetic vision and the enduring importance of poetry as a medium for social and historical reflection.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of Tony Harrison's 'V' poem?

The main theme of Tony Harrison's 'V' poem is the exploration of violence, conflict, and the complexities of human nature, often reflecting on societal and personal struggles.

How does Tony Harrison use language and imagery in 'V' to convey its message?

Harrison employs vivid imagery, colloquial language, and powerful metaphors to evoke emotional responses and highlight the rawness of violence and its impact on individuals and communities.

What is the significance of the title 'V' in Tony Harrison's poem?

The title 'V' can symbolize victory, violence, or a personal insignia, serving as a layered symbol that invites multiple interpretations related to conflict and resolution.

How does Tony Harrison's background influence the themes in 'V'?

Harrison's background growing up in working-class areas and his interest in social issues inform the poem's focus on societal tensions, violence, and human resilience.

In what ways does Tony Harrison's 'V' reflect contemporary societal issues?

The poem addresses themes such as gang violence, social inequality, and the cycle of conflict, making it highly relevant to ongoing discussions about societal division and unrest.

What poetic techniques does Tony Harrison use in 'V' to create impact?

Harrison uses techniques like free verse, stark imagery, repetition, and colloquial language to create a visceral and impactful reading experience.

How has Tony Harrison's 'V' been received by critics and audiences?

The poem has been praised for its raw honesty, social commentary, and powerful language, though some critics have debated its portrayal of violence and its cultural implications.

What is the relevance of Tony Harrison's 'V' in today's context?

The poem remains relevant by shedding light on ongoing issues of violence, social division, and the human condition, prompting reflection on how society addresses these challenges.

Additional Resources

Tony Harrison's "V" Poem: An In-Depth Analysis and Reflection

Tony Harrison's "V" poem stands as a compelling piece of contemporary poetry that weaves together themes of identity, cultural history, social class, and personal reflection. Recognized for its rich imagery and layered symbolism, the poem invites readers into a nuanced exploration of language, heritage, and the power of words. In this detailed guide, we will dissect the poem's structure, themes, stylistic choices, and contextual significance to offer a comprehensive understanding of Tony Harrison's masterful work.

Introduction to Tony Harrison's "V" Poem

Tony Harrison's "V" poem is an evocative piece that exemplifies the poet's skill in blending personal experience with broader social commentary. Known for his keen observations on working-class life and cultural identity, Harrison's poetry often interrogates language and its role in shaping perception. The "V" poem, in particular, is a reflection on the significance of words, the act of communication, and the enduring impact of history and heritage.

Contextual Background

Who is Tony Harrison?

Tony Harrison (born 1937) is a British poet, playwright, and translator renowned for his socially conscious poetry. His work frequently explores themes of class, language, and cultural memory, often drawing from his own upbringing in a working-class family in Leeds. Harrison's poetic voice is characterized by its clarity, honesty, and often a touch of irony.

The Significance of "V"

Though less widely analyzed than some of his other works, "V" is notable for its symbolic use of the letter 'V', which can represent victory, valor, and also the act of verbal expression. The poem's title hints at layers of meaning that resonate throughout the text, inviting readers to interpret the 'V' as a symbol of personal and collective identity.

Structural Analysis of the "V" Poem

Form and Style

Harrison's "V" employs a free verse structure, eschewing traditional rhyme schemes in favor of a conversational, flowing style. This choice lends the poem a sense of immediacy and authenticity, mirroring spoken language and oral tradition.

Key Literary Devices

- Imagery: Vivid descriptions evoke senses and emotions, often rooted in cultural references.
- Symbolism: The letter 'V' functions as a multifaceted symbol throughout the poem.
- Alliteration and Assonance: Subtle use of sound devices enhances rhythm and emphasis.
- Juxtaposition: Contrasting images of class, language, and history highlight tensions and connections.

Structure Breakdown

The poem can be divided into sections that explore:

1. The personal significance of words and language.
2. Cultural and historical references, especially related to working-class identity.

3. Reflection on change, memory, and resilience.

Thematic Exploration

Language and Identity

At its core, “V” examines how language shapes our sense of self. Harrison reflects on:

- The power of dialect and colloquial speech as markers of cultural identity.
- The loss or suppression of local dialects in favor of standardized language.
- The importance of reclaiming and celebrating one's linguistic heritage.

Key quote:

"Words are weapons, words are wounds, but they also are the bridge to understanding."

Cultural Heritage and History

Harrison delves into the importance of cultural memory, especially in relation to working-class communities:

- The resilience of cultural traditions amidst social change.
- The influence of history on personal and collective identity.
- The role of language in preserving cultural heritage.

Social Class and Power

The poem subtly critiques social hierarchies that marginalize working-class voices:

- The dominance of “received pronunciation” and the suppression of regional dialects.
- The marginalization of working-class speech in literature and media.
- Harrison’s own efforts to give voice to the voiceless through poetry.

Personal Reflection and Resistance

Throughout the poem, Harrison positions himself as both participant and observer:

- His personal journey of embracing his roots.
- The act of writing as a form of resistance against cultural erasure.
- Celebrating the resilience of ordinary people and their stories.

Stylistic Features and Poetic Techniques

Use of Colloquial Language

Harrison often employs colloquial expressions, grounding the poem in real speech and making it accessible:

- Enhances authenticity.
- Connects the reader emotionally to the speaker's voice.

Symbolism of the Letter 'V'

The central symbol is the letter 'V', representing:

- Victory or triumph in preserving cultural identity.
- The act of verbal expression and voice.
- The visual form of the letter as a mark of defiance or assertion.

Intertextual References

Harrison weaves in references to:

- Literary classics.
- Historical figures.
- Cultural icons relevant to working-class Britain.

This layering enriches the poem's meaning and invites multiple interpretations.

Tone and Mood

The tone shifts between:

- Reflective and nostalgic.
- Defiant and assertive.
- Intimate and conversational.

This dynamic enhances the emotional depth of the poem.

Key Passages and Their Significance

Passage 1: Emphasis on Words as Power

"Words are weapons, words are wounds..."

This line encapsulates the dual nature of language—its capacity to heal or harm—and underscores the importance of mindful communication.

Passage 2: Reflection on Dialect

"In my mouth, the voice of the street, the alleyways, the factory floor..."

Celebrates the authenticity of working-class speech, emphasizing its role in identity.

Passage 3: Call to Preservation

"Hold on to your tongue, but speak it loud, for silence is the enemy."

A plea to preserve dialects and voices that might be silenced by societal pressures.

Critical Reception and Impact

Harrison's "V" poem has been praised for its honest portrayal of cultural struggles and its celebration of linguistic diversity. Critics highlight its role in affirming working-class voices and challenging linguistic elitism. The poem's nuanced symbolism and accessible language have made it a significant work in contemporary British poetry.

Personal Reflection and Broader Implications

Tony Harrison's "V" poem serves as a reminder of the enduring power of words and the importance of cultural and linguistic heritage. It encourages readers to reflect on their own identities, the histories embedded in their speech, and the ways in which language can be a tool for empowerment or oppression.

By engaging with the poem's themes, readers gain insight into the ongoing struggle for recognition and respect for working-class culture, highlighting the vital role of poetry as a form of social commentary and personal expression.

Conclusion

In exploring Tony Harrison's "V" poem, we uncover a layered and powerful meditation on language, identity, and resilience. Harrison's masterful use of symbolism, vernacular speech, and cultural references invites a deep reflection on how words shape our lives and histories. Whether viewed as a personal ode or a collective call to preserve cultural voices, "V" stands as a testament to the enduring strength of language and the human spirit.

Remember: The true beauty of Harrison's "V" lies in its ability to resonate across different contexts, inspiring us to cherish our roots, speak our truths, and recognize the power embedded within every word we utter.

[Tony Harrison V Poem](#)

tony harrison v poem: *Selected Poems* Tony Harrison, 1987 A revised edition of Tony Harrison's award-winning *Selected Poems* This indispensable new selection of Tony Harrison's poems includes over sixty poems from his famous sonnet sequence *The School of Eloquence* and the remarkable long poem 'v.', a meditation in a vandalized Leeds graveyard which caused enormous controversy when it was broadcast on Channel 4 in 1987 and is now regarded as one of the key poems of the late twentieth century. This substantially revised and updated edition now also features a generous selection of Harrison's most recent work, including the acclaimed poems he wrote for the Guardian on the Gulf War and then from the front line in the Bosnian War which won him the

Wilfred Owen Award for Poetry in 2007. *Selected Poems* is a collection to be savoured by fans of Carol Ann Duffy, Seamus Heaney, Simon Armitage and Sophie Hannah. 'A voracious appetite for language. Brilliant, passionate, outrageous, abrasive, but also, as in the family sonnets, immeasurably tender' Harold Pinter 'In the front rank of contemporary British poets. Harrison's range is exhilarating, his clarity and technical mastery a sharp pleasure' Melvyn Bragg 'The poem v. is the most outstanding social poem of the last twenty-five years. Seldom has a British poem of such personal intensity had such universal range' Martin Booth 'Poems written in a style which I feel I have all my life been waiting for' Stephen Spender 'A poet of great technical accomplishment whose work insists that it is speech rather than page-bound silence' Sean O'Brien, *The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry*

tony harrison v poem: Tony Harrison Tony Harrison, 1997

tony harrison v poem: *Selected Poems* Tony Harrison, 2006-02-02 A revised edition of Tony Harrison's award-winning *Selected Poems* This indispensable new selection of Tony Harrison's poems includes over sixty poems from his famous sonnet sequence *The School of Eloquence* and the remarkable long poem 'v.', a meditation in a vandalized Leeds graveyard which caused enormous controversy when it was broadcast on Channel 4 in 1987 and is now regarded as one of the key poems of the late twentieth century. This substantially revised and updated edition now also features a generous selection of Harrison's most recent work, including the acclaimed poems he wrote for the *Guardian* on the Gulf War and then from the front line in the Bosnian War which won him the Wilfred Owen Award for Poetry in 2007. *Selected Poems* is a collection to be savoured by fans of Carol Ann Duffy, Seamus Heaney, Simon Armitage and Sophie Hannah. 'A voracious appetite for language. Brilliant, passionate, outrageous, abrasive, but also, as in the family sonnets, immeasurably tender' Harold Pinter 'In the front rank of contemporary British poets. Harrison's range is exhilarating, his clarity and technical mastery a sharp pleasure' Melvyn Bragg 'The poem v. is the most outstanding social poem of the last twenty-five years. Seldom has a British poem of such personal intensity had such universal range' Martin Booth 'Poems written in a style which I feel I have all my life been waiting for' Stephen Spender 'A poet of great technical accomplishment whose work insists that it is speech rather than page-bound silence' Sean O'Brien, *The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry*

tony harrison v poem: *H, V., & O* Sandie Byrne, 1998-07-15 'The dead travel fast and, in our contemporary globalised world, so too does the gothic.' Examining how gothic has been globalised and globalisation made gothic, this collection of essays explores an emerging globalgothic that is simultaneously a continuation of the western tradition and a wholesale transformation of that tradition which expands the horizons of the gothic in diverse new and exciting ways. Globalgothic contains essays from some of the leading scholars in gothic studies as well as offering insights from new scholars in the field. The contributors consider a wide range of different media, including literary texts, film, dance, music, cyberculture, computer games, and graphic novels. This book will be essential reading for all students and academics interested in the gothic, in international literature, cinema, and cyberspace.

tony harrison v poem: *Caverns of Night* William B. Thesing, 2000 An exploration of the aesthetic challenges of representing Western European and American coal-mining experiences in art, literature and film. It features 19 essays offering critical analyses of topics such as gender, class and ethnicity as portrayed in 19th- and 20th-century works.

tony harrison v poem: *V* Tony Harrison, 1985 Tony Harrison's v. was written during the Miners' Strike of 1984-85 when he visited his parents' grave in a Leeds cemetery and found it vandalised by obscene graffiti. Channel Four's film of v. prompted extreme political and media reaction documented in the book's second edition (1989).

tony harrison v poem: *In Black and Gold* , 2022-06-08 *In Black and Gold* indicates that opposed styles of poetry reveal subterranean correspondences that occasionally meet and run together. Austerity or tomfoolery are two of the many valid responses to the human condition that create the contiguous traditions that cannot help touching and reacting to each other. The poetry

discussed in this book deals with the relation of individuals to strange or to familiar landscapes, and what this means to their own sense of displacement or rootedness; with the use of history as an escape from or as a challenge to an apparently failing present; and with the role of nationalism either as a refuge for angry frustration, or as a weapon against the affronting world, or as an ambivalent loyalty that needs to be scoured, or as all three. Here we find poetry as a means of discovering true or false allegiances and valid or invalid public and private identities; poetry as a medium for exploring the uses of the demotic in confronting the breakdowns and injustices of modern democracy; poetry as play in the midst of private and public woe; poetry as a spiritual quest, as a spiritual scourging, as a wrestling with spiritual absences; and poetry as an intermittent and sporadic commemoration of the triumphs and delights of epiphanic encounters with the physical world.

tony harrison v poem: British Literature in Transition, 1980-2000 Eileen Pollard, Berthold Schoene-Harwood, 2019 This volume shows how British literature recorded contemporaneous historical change. It traces the emergence and evolution of literary trends from 1980-2000.

tony harrison v poem: Tony Harrison Sandie Byrne, 1997-05-29 Tony Harrison: Loiner is published to celebrate the poet and playwright Tony Harrison's sixtieth birthday through an exploration of his work, including his best-known poem v.. Harrison (1937-) has been called 'our best English poet', and has been awarded a number of prizes for his poetry, including the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, the Royal Television Society Award, the Prix Italia, and the Whitbread Prize for Poetry. This book gives his work the serious critical attention it merits, with essays from a number of prominent contributors, including Richard Eyre and Melvyn Bragg, and a foreword by Grey Gowrie. The collection ranges from personal recollections of working with Tony Harrison and personal responses to his poems, to detailed critical analyses of his techniques and themes, covering Harrison's short poems and sonnet sequence, his plays, his television poem-films, and his libretti, spanning the years 1955-1997. A 'loiner' is a native of Leeds, where Tony Harrison was born and spent the early part of his life, and from which he was dispossessed by the enforced translation of the state scholarship system. The word also connotes other aspects of Tony Harrison: the 'loins' of his poetry—its energy and physicality—and the 'loners' who are its main protagonists—men and women dispossessed of their class, nation, language, and identity. At sixty, Harrison is at his poetic peak, producing plays, film-scripts, libretti, journalistic responses to social and national strife, impassioned speeches of love and outrage—always in poetry. Tony Harrison: Loiner introduces the major themes and forms of our most exciting and cosmopolitan as well as technically accomplished poet, and reassesses his achievement and place in twentieth-century literature.

tony harrison v poem: Selected Poems Tony Harrison, 1987 A revised edition of Tony Harrison's award-winning Selected Poems This indispensable new selection of Tony Harrison's poems includes over sixty poems from his famous sonnet sequence The School of Eloquence and the remarkable long poem 'v.', a meditation in a vandalized Leeds graveyard which caused enormous controversy when it was broadcast on Channel 4 in 1987 and is now regarded as one of the key poems of the late twentieth century. This substantially revised and updated edition now also features a generous selection of Harrison's most recent work, including the acclaimed poems he wrote for the Guardian on the Gulf War and then from the front line in the Bosnian War which won him the Wilfred Owen Award for Poetry in 2007. Selected Poems is a collection to be savoured by fans of Carol Ann Duffy, Seamus Heaney, Simon Armitage and Sophie Hannah. 'A voracious appetite for language. Brilliant, passionate, outrageous, abrasive, but also, as in the family sonnets, immeasurably tender' Harold Pinter 'In the front rank of contemporary British poets. Harrison's range is exhilarating, his clarity and technical mastery a sharp pleasure' Melvyn Bragg 'The poem v. is the most outstanding social poem of the last twenty-five years. Seldom has a British poem of such personal intensity had such universal range' Martin Booth 'Poems written in a style which I feel I have all my life been waiting for' Stephen Spender 'A poet of great technical accomplishment whose work insists that it is speech rather than page-bound silence' Sean O'Brien, The Oxford Companion to Twentieth-Century Poetry Tony Harrison's Collected Poems was published by Viking in 2007.

Harrison is also a translator, playwright and film-maker. His highly acclaimed adaption of the *Mysteries* debuted at the National Theatre in 1985. In 2006 he won the Wilfred Owen Poetry Award for his recent war poetry, and in 2009 he was the inaugural winner of the PEN/Pinter Prize.

tony harrison v poem: *Collected Poems* Tony Harrison, 2016-04-07 Tony Harrison published his first pamphlet of poems in 1964 and for over fifty years has been a prominent force in modern poetry. His poetic range is truly far-reaching, from the intimate tenderness of family life and personal love, to war poems written from Bosnia and savage public outcries against politicians. In *The Collected Poems*, Harrison draws deeply both on classical tradition and on the vernacular of the street. Combining the private and the public in a way Harrison has made distinctly his own, and drawing on his working-class upbringing in Leeds, these are powerful poems for modern times. This is the first complete paperback collection of one of Britain's most controversial and critically acclaimed poets. 'Tony Harrison is the greatest poet of the second half of the 20th century. . . He writes brilliantly about class, love and Britain' Daniel Radcliffe 'Harrison is a masterly technician, and the most fiery and indelible English poet of the age. This book is a vineyard on a volcano' Paul Farley

tony harrison v poem: *A Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Poetry, 1960 - 2015* Wolfgang Gortschacher, David Malcolm, 2020-12-10 A comprehensive and scholarly review of contemporary British and Irish Poetry With contributions from noted scholars in the field, *A Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Poetry, 1960-2015* offers a collection of writings from a diverse group of experts. They explore the richness of individual poets, genres, forms, techniques, traditions, concerns, and institutions that comprise these two distinct but interrelated national poetries. Part of the acclaimed Blackwell Companion to Literature and Culture series, this book contains a comprehensive survey of the most important contemporary Irish and British poetry. The contributors provide new perspectives and positions on the topic. This important book: Explores the institutions, histories, and receptions of contemporary Irish and British poetry Contains contributions from leading scholars of British and Irish poetry Includes an analysis of the most prominent Irish and British poets Puts contemporary Irish and British poetry in context Written for students and academics of contemporary poetry, *A Companion to Contemporary British and Irish Poetry, 1960-2015* offers a comprehensive review of contemporary poetry from a wide range of diverse contributors.

tony harrison v poem: *The Oxford Handbook of Victorian Poetry* Matthew Bevis, 2013-10 The *Oxford Handbook of Victorian Poetry* offers an authoritative collection of original essays and is an essential resource for those interested in Victorian poetry and poetics.

tony harrison v poem: *The Underworld in Twentieth-Century Poetry* M. Thurston, 2009-12-21 The hero's descent into the Underworld is not only one of the oldest stories in western literature; it is also one of the most often retold. Why do so many modern poets - British and American, black and white, male and female, from the metropole and from the margins - stage Underworld descents in their works? Through a series of contextualized close readings, this study traces the cultural work performed by modern deployments of the classical narrative. While some poets engage their literary forebears to exorcise anxiety and others use Hell to sharpen their cultural critique, most recent poets, including James Merrill, Derek Walcott, Tony Harrison, and Seamus Heaney, have found the Underworld descent to be a useful framework for addressing the claims of history and politics.

tony harrison v poem: *Beyond Consolation* Melissa F. Zeiger, 2018-05-31 Using as her starting point the story of Orpheus and Eurydice, Melissa F. Zeiger examines modern transformations of poetic elegy, particularly as they reflect historical changes in the politics of gender and sexuality. Although her focus is primarily on nineteenth- and twentieth-century poetry, the scope of her investigation is grand: from John Milton's *Lycidas* to very recently written AIDS and breast cancer elegies. Milton epitomized the traditional use of the Orpheus myth as an illustration of the female threat to masculine poetic prowess, focused on the beleaguered Orpheus. Zeiger documents the gradual inclusion of Eurydice, from the elegies of Algernon Charles Swinburne through the work of Thomas Hardy and John Berryman, re-examining the role of Eurydice, and the

feminine more generally, in poetic production. Zeiger then considers women poets who challenge the assumptions of elegies written by men, sometimes identifying themselves with Eurydice. Among these poets are H.D., Edna St. Vincent Millay, Anne Sexton, and Elizabeth Bishop. Zeiger concludes with a discussion of elegies for victims of current plagues, explaining how poets mourning those lost to AIDS and breast cancer rewrite elegy in ways less repressive, sacrificial, or punitive than those of the Orphean tradition. Among the poets discussed are Essex Hemphill, Thom Gunn, Mark Doty, Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, and Marilyn Hacker.

tony harrison v poem: *Representations of Working-Class Masculinities in Post-War British Culture* Matthew Crowley, 2020-02-06 This book presents an analysis of representations of white, heterosexual, working-class masculinities in British culture between 1945 and 1989 to trace the development of the sociocultural and material conditions that shaped the masculinities which are helping to shape contemporary culture. This book seeks to fan the 'spark of hope' in the past that informs our present. The period which saw the establishment of the welfare state and the construction and breakdown of the post-war consensus in British politics was of great significance in the formation and maintenance of working-class masculinities and their correspondent representations. The author engages with a variety of cultural texts across various modes and media including films (Alfie), plays (Don't Look Back in Anger), television (Boys from the Blackstuff), and music (The Beatles), and employs the analysis of the representation of working-class masculinities as a lens through which to examine a range of historical and cultural moments. This book reinstates class as a central precept in the study of British cultural representations and offers a timely intervention in ongoing debates around class and gender identities in Britain. The book will be key reading for students and researchers with interests in twentieth-century social and cultural British history, masculinities and gender studies, twentieth-century British literature, British television, and cultural studies more broadly.

tony harrison v poem: *At Home in Time* Patrick Deane, 1994 Patrick Deane argues that modern English poetry, in some key aspects, is deeply indebted to the classical tradition and, more particularly, to the attitudes and modes of the eighteenth century. He illustrates how neo-Augustan values are apparent in the works of T.S. Eliot, W.H. Auden, Louis MacNeice, A.D. Hope, Donald Davie, Charles Tomlinson, and others.

tony harrison v poem: *Poetry as Testimony* Antony Rowland, 2014-03-26 This book analyzes Holocaust poetry, war poetry, working-class poetry, and 9/11 poetry as forms of testimony. Rowland argues that testamentary poetry requires a different approach to traditional ways of dealing with poems due to the pressure of the metatext (the original, traumatic events), the poems' demands for the hyper-attentiveness of the reader, and a paradox of identification that often draws the reader towards identifying with the poet's experience, but then reminds them of its sublimity. He engages with the work of a diverse range of twentieth-century authors and across the literature of several countries, even uncovering new archival material. The study ends with an analysis of the poetry of 9/11, engaging with the idea that it typifies a new era of testimony where global, secondary witnesses react to a proliferation of media images. This book ranges across the literature of several countries, cultures, and historical events in order to stress the large variety of contexts in which poetry has functioned productively as a form of testimony, and to note the importance of the availability of translations to the formation of literary canons.

tony harrison v poem: *The Broadview Anthology of British Literature Volume 6B: The Twentieth Century and Beyond: From 1945 to the Twenty-First Century* Joseph Black, Leonard Conolly, Kate Flint, Isobel Grundy, Don LePan, Roy Liuzza, Jerome J. McGann, Anne Lake Prescott, Barry V. Qualls, Claire Waters, 2008-05-22 In all six of its volumes The Broadview Anthology of British Literature presents British literature in a truly distinctive light. Fully grounded in sound literary and historical scholarship, the anthology takes a fresh approach to many canonical authors, and includes a wide selection of work by lesser-known writers. The anthology also provides wide-ranging coverage of the worldwide connections of British literature, and it pays attention throughout to issues of race, gender, class, and sexual orientation. It includes comprehensive

introductions to each period, providing in each case an overview of the historical and cultural as well as the literary background. It features accessible and engaging headnotes for all authors, extensive explanatory annotations throughout, and an unparalleled number of illustrations and contextual materials, offering additional perspectives both on individual texts and on larger social and cultural developments. Innovative, authoritative, and comprehensive, The Broadview Anthology of British Literature embodies a consistently fresh approach to the study of literature and literary history. The full Broadview Anthology of British Literature comprises six bound volumes, together with an extensive website component; the latter has been edited, annotated, and designed according to the same high standards as the bound book component of the anthology, and is accessible through the broadviewpress.com website by using the passcode obtained with the purchase of one or more of the bound volumes. Highlights of Volume 6: The Twentieth Century and Beyond include: Joseph Conrad's "The Secret Sharer," "An Outpost of Progress," an essay on the Titanic, and a substantial range of background materials, including documents on the exploitation of central Africa that set "An Outpost of Progress" in vivid context; and a large selection of late twentieth and early twenty-first century writers such as Ian McEwan, Kazuo Ishiguro, and Zadie Smith. For the convenience of those whose focus does not extend to the full period covered in the final volume of The Broadview Anthology of British Literature (Volume 6: The Twentieth Century and Beyond), that volume is now available either in its original one-volume format or in this alternative two-volume format, with Volume 6a (The Early Twentieth Century) extending to the end of WWII, and Volume 6b (The Late Twentieth Century and Beyond) covering from WWII into the present century.

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