

# Poetry Theme Overview

Matthew Williams • English Literature • March 20, 2026

## How to Use This Page

- Themes are grouped in tabs to make scanning easier.
- Missing themes were filled in using each poem's own article tags.
- All theme labels are normalized to capitalized form.

```
<div className="not-prose my-8 w-full [&.theme-card]:px-4 [&.theme-card]:pb-4
[&.theme-card]:pt-0 [&.theme-card]:rounded-lg [&.theme-card]:bg(--color-bg-secondary)
[&.theme-card]:h-fit [&.theme-card>h3]:mt-0 [&.theme-card>h3]:mb-3
[&.theme-card>h3]:text-base [&.theme-card>h3]:font-semibold [&.theme-card>ul]:mt-0
[&.theme-card>ul]:list-disc [&.theme-card>ul]:pl-5 [&.theme-card>ul]:space-y-1
[&_.theme-card>ul]:text-sm">
```

```
<span className="mr-2 inline-block size-2 rounded-full bg-rose-500" />Power & Conflict <span
className="text-xs opacity-70">(4)</span>
```

```
<span className="mr-2 inline-block size-2 rounded-full bg-amber-500" />Identity & Society
<span className="text-xs opacity-70">(4)</span>
```

```
<span className="mr-2 inline-block size-2 rounded-full bg-emerald-500" />Morality &
Relationships <span className="text-xs opacity-70">(4)</span>
```

```
<span className="mr-2 inline-block size-2 rounded-full bg-sky-500" />War & Resistance <span
className="text-xs opacity-70">(4)</span>
```

```
<span className="mr-2 inline-block size-2 rounded-full bg-violet-500" />Self, Place & Mortality
<span className="text-xs opacity-70">(4)</span>
```

```
<div className="grid gap-4 md:grid-cols-2">
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:
"var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">An African Thunderstorm</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Nature</li>
```

```
<li>Conflict</li>
```

```
<li>Gender Roles</li>
```

```
<li>Chaos</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

</div>

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Once Upon A Time</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Conflict</li>
```

```
<li>Admiration</li>
```

```
<li>Childhood / Innocence</li>
```

```
<li>Nostalgia</li>
```

```
<li>Transformation</li>
```

```
<li>Family Relationships</li>
```

```
<li>Societal Expectations</li>
```

```
<li>Hypocrisy</li>
```

```
<li>Desires</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Little Boy Crying</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Oppression</li>
```

```
<li>Youth / Childhood</li>
```

```
<li>Parent/Child Relationships</li>
```

```
<li>Power Dynamics</li>
```

```
<li>Punishment</li>
```

```
<li>Misunderstanding</li>
```

```
<li>Regret</li>
```

```
<li>Imagination</li>
```

```
<li>Play</li>
```

```
<li>Determination</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">West Indies, U.S.A.</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Racism</li>
```

```
<li>Race Politics</li>
```

```
<li>Oppression</li>
```

```
<li>Power Dynamics</li>
```

```
<li>Travel</li>
```

```
<li>Migration</li>
```

```
<li>Dreams / Aspirations</li>
```

```
<li>Desires</li>
```

```
<li>School / Education</li>
```

```
<li>Social Barriers</li>
```

```
<li>Self-Respect / Self-Awareness</li>
```

```
<li>Empathy</li>
```

```
<li>Determination</li>
```

```
<li>Resilience</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div className="grid gap-4 md:grid-cols-2">
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Sonnet Composed Upon Westminster Bridge</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Nature</li>
```

```
<li>Love / Admiration</li>
```

```
<li>Urban Life / Industrialization</li>
```

```
<li>Peace</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:  
"var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Birdshooting Season</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Oppression</li>
```

```
<li>Nature</li>
```

```
<li>Conflict</li>
```

```
<li>Gender Politics</li>
```

```
<li>Violence</li>
```

```
<li>Parent/Child Relationships</li>
```

```
<li>Family Relationships</li>
```

```
<li>Desires / Expectations</li>
```

```
<li>Commitment / Betrayal</li>
```

```
<li>Tradition</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:  
"var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">The Woman Speaks to the Man Who Has Employed Her Son</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Powerlessness</li>
```

```
<li>Violence</li>
```

```
<li>Death</li>
```

```
<li>Anger</li>
```

```
<li>Love</li>
```

```
<li>Betrayal</li>
```

```
<li>Parent/Child Relationships</li>
```

```
<li>Conflict</li>
```

```
<li>Disappointment / Disillusionment</li>
```

```
<li>Dreams / Aspirations</li>
```

```
<li>Desires</li>
```

```
<li>Religion</li>
```

```
<li>Morality</li>
```

<li>Power Dynamics</li>

<li>Female Roles / Gender</li>

<li>Politics</li>

<li>Hope</li>

<li>Resilience</li>

</ul>

</div>

<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>

<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">It Is the Constant Image of Your Face</h3>

<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">

<li>Nature</li>

<li>Conflict</li>

<li>Patriotism</li>

<li>Gender Roles</li>

<li>Love</li>

</ul>

</div>

</div>

<div className="grid gap-4 md:grid-cols-2">

<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>

<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">A Lesson for This Sunday</h3>

<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">

<li>Innocence</li>

<li>Cruelty</li>

<li>Nature</li>

<li>Loss of Innocence</li>

<li>Human Nature</li>

<li>Mortality</li>

</ul>

</div>

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:  
"var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">A Stone's Throw</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Violence</li>
```

```
<li>Religion</li>
```

```
<li>Gender Politics</li>
```

```
<li>Abuse</li>
```

```
<li>Conflict</li>
```

```
<li>Desire</li>
```

```
<li>Hypocrisy</li>
```

```
<li>Oppression</li>
```

```
<li>Power Dynamics</li>
```

```
<li>Disappointment / Disillusionment</li>
```

```
<li>Anger</li>
```

```
<li>Morality</li>
```

```
<li>Grace / Mercy</li>
```

```
<li>Determination</li>
```

```
<li>Empathy</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:  
"var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Test Match Sabina Park</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Conflict</li>
```

```
<li>Patriotism</li>
```

```
<li>Rejection</li>
```

```
<li>Chaos</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:  
"var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

### <h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">My Parents</h3>

<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">

<li>Oppression</li>

<li>Bullying</li>

<li>Youth / Childhood</li>

<li>Family Relationships</li>

<li>Forgiveness</li>

<li>Disappointment / Disillusionment</li>

<li>Social Barriers</li>

<li>Conflict</li>

<li>Self-Esteem</li>

<li>Desires</li>

<li>Power Dynamics</li>

<li>Fear</li>

<li>Anger</li>

<li>Violence</li>

</ul>

</div>

</div>

<div className="grid gap-4 md:grid-cols-2">

<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>

### <h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Landscape Painter, Jamaica</h3>

<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">

<li>Nature</li>

<li>Art</li>

<li>Places</li>

<li>Admiration</li>

<li>Identity</li>

<li>Jamaica</li>

</ul>

</div>

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Dulce et Decorum Est</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Conflict</li>
```

```
<li>War</li>
```

```
<li>Patriotism</li>
```

```
<li>Love</li>
```

```
<li>Resilience</li>
```

```
<li>Disappointment / Disillusionment</li>
```

```
<li>Illness</li>
```

```
<li>Death</li>
```

```
<li>Chaos</li>
```

```
<li>Heroism</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">This Is the Dark Time, My Love</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Oppression</li>
```

```
<li>Conflict</li>
```

```
<li>War</li>
```

```
<li>Love</li>
```

```
</ul>
```

```
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor: "var(--group-accent)" }}>
```

```
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Ol' Higue</h3>
```

```
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
```

```
<li>Folklore / Superstition</li>
```

```
<li>Death</li>
```

```
<li>Frustration / Anger</li>
```

```

<li>Conflict</li>
<li>Disappointment / Disillusionment</li>
<li>Motherhood</li>
<li>Violence</li>
<li>Desire</li>
<li>Determination</li>
<li>Mortality / Immortality</li>
</ul>
</div>
</div>

```

```

<div className="grid gap-4 md:grid-cols-2">
  <div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:
    "var(--group-accent)" }}>
    <h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Mirror</h3>
    <ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
      <li>Youth / Ageing</li>
      <li>Self-Esteem</li>
      <li>Disappointment / Disillusionment</li>
      <li>Nature</li>
      <li>Conflict (Internal)</li>
      <li>Female Roles / Gender</li>
      <li>Politics</li>
      <li>Desires</li>
      <li>Frustration / Anger</li>
    </ul>
  </div>

```

```

<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:
  "var(--group-accent)" }}>
  <h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">South</h3>
  <ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
    <li>Nature</li>
    <li>Patriotism</li>
    <li>Love / Admiration</li>

```

```
<li>Nostalgia / Memory</li>
<li>Desire</li>
<li>Regret</li>
<li>Travel / Migration</li>
<li>Oppression</li>
<li>Satisfaction / Happiness</li>
<li>Determination</li>
<li>Rural vs Urban Life</li>
</ul>
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:
"var(--group-accent)" }}>
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Death Be Not Proud</h3>
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
<li>Death</li>
<li>Religion</li>
<li>Powerlessness</li>
<li>Mortality / Immortality</li>
<li>Defiance</li>
</ul>
</div>
```

```
<div className="theme-card" style={{ borderLeftWidth: "4px", borderLeftColor:
"var(--group-accent)" }}>
<h3 className="mt-0 mb-3">Dreaming Black Boy</h3>
<ul className="mt-0 list-disc pl-5">
<li>Racism</li>
<li>Oppression</li>
<li>Dreams / Aspirations</li>
<li>Youth / Childhood</li>
<li>Desires</li>
<li>Disappointment / Disillusionment</li>
<li>Self-Esteem</li>
<li>Travel</li>
```

- <li>Social Barriers</li>
- <li>Conflict</li>
- <li>Power Dynamics</li>
- <li>Fear</li>
- <li>School / Education</li>
- <li>Violence</li>
- <li>Determination</li>
- <li>Resilience</li>

</ul>

</div>

</div>

</div>

 **Remember**

- Theme wording can vary between teachers/exam boards, but the core ideas remain the same.
- Use this page as a revision index, then open each poem article for evidence and quotations.