

Poetry Theme Overview

Matthew Williams • English Literature • March 20, 2026

How to Use This Page

- Themes are grouped by poem set. Use the tabs to focus on one group.
- Open any poem's article for quotations and deeper analysis.

```
<div className="not-prose my-6 w-full
[&.poem-list]:overflow-hidden [&.poem-list]:rounded-xl [&.poem-list]:border
[&.poem-list]:border(--color-border)
[&.group-header]:flex [&.group-header]:items-center [&.group-header]:gap-2
[&.group-header]:border-b [&.group-header]:border(--color-border) [&.group-header]:px-5
[&.group-header]:py-2 [&.group-header]:text-[11px] [&.group-header]:font-semibold
[&.group-header]:uppercase [&_.group-header]:tracking-widest
[&.poem-row]:flex [&.poem-row]:flex-col [&.poem-row]:gap-1.5 [&.poem-row]:border-b
[&.poem-row]:border(--color-border) [&.poem-row]:border-l-4 [&.poem-row]:px-5
[&.poem-row]:py-3 [&_.poem-row]:last:border-b-0
[&.pn]:text-sm [&.pn]:font-medium [&_.pn]:leading-snug
[&.tl]:flex [&.tl]:flex-wrap [&_.tl]:gap-1
[&.tl>span]:rounded-full [&.tl>span]:border [&.tl>span]:border(--color-border) [&.tl>span]:px-2
[&.tl>span]:py-px [&.tl>span]:text-[11px] [&_.tl>span]:text(--color-muted)">
```

Power & Conflict

>Identity & Society

>Morality & Relationships

>War & Resistance

>Self, Place & Mortality

```
<div className="poem-list">
```

```
<div className="group-header" style={{ backgroundColor: "color-mix(in srgb, #f43f5e 8%, var(--color-bg))", color: "#f43f5e" }}><span className="inline-block size-2 rounded-full bg-rose-500" /> Power & Conflict</div>
```

```
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f43f5e" }}><div className="pn">An African Thunderstorm</div></div>
```

```
className="tl"><span>Nature</span><span>Conflict</span><span>Gender  
Roles</span><span>Chaos</span></div></div>
```

```
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f43f5e" }}><div  
className="pn">Once Upon A Time</div><div  
className="tl"><span>Conflict</span><span>Admiration</span><span>Childhood /  
Innocence</span><span>Nostalgia</span><span>Transformation</span><span>Family  
Relationships</span><span>Societal  
Expectations</span><span>Hypocrisy</span><span>Desires</span></div></div>
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<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f43f5e" }}><div  
className="pn">Little Boy Crying</div><div  
className="tl"><span>Oppression</span><span>Youth /  
Childhood</span><span>Parent/Child Relationships</span><span>Power  
Dynamics</span><span>Punishment</span><span>Misunderstanding</span><span>Regret</span><span>Spar</span></div></div>
```

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<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f43f5e" }}><div  
className="pn">West Indies, U.S.A.</div><div  
className="tl"><span>Racism</span><span>Race  
Politics</span><span>Oppression</span><span>Power  
Dynamics</span><span>Travel</span><span>Migration</span><span>Dreams /  
Aspirations</span><span>Desires</span><span>School / Education</span><span>Social  
Barriers</span><span>Self-Respect /  
Self-Awareness</span><span>Empathy</span><span>Determination</span><span>Resilience</span></div></div>
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<div className="group-header" style={{ backgroundColor: "color-mix(in srgb, #f59e0b 8%,  
var(--color-bg))", color: "#d97706" }}><span className="inline-block size-2 rounded-full  
bg-amber-500" /> Identity & Society</div>
```

```
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f59e0b" }}><div  
className="pn">Sonnet Composed Upon Westminster Bridge</div><div  
className="tl"><span>Nature</span><span>Love / Admiration</span><span>Urban Life /  
Industrialization</span><span>Peace</span></div></div>
```

```
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f59e0b" }}><div  
className="pn">Birdshooting Season</div><div  
className="tl"><span>Oppression</span><span>Nature</span><span>Conflict</span><span>Gender  
Politics</span><span>Violence</span><span>Parent/Child  
Relationships</span><span>Family Relationships</span><span>Desires /  
Expectations</span><span>Commitment /  
Betrayal</span><span>Tradition</span></div></div>
```

```
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f59e0b" }}><div className="pn">The  
Woman Speaks to the Man Who Has Employed Her Son</div><div  
className="tl"><span>Powerlessness</span><span>Violence</span><span>Death</span><span>Anger</span><span>Relationships</span><span>Conflict</span><span>Disappointment /</span></div></div>
```

DisillusionmentDreams /
AspirationsDesiresReligionMoralityPower
DynamicsFemale Roles /
GenderPoliticsHopeResilience</div></div>

<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f59e0b" }}><div className="pn">It Is
the Constant Image of Your Face</div><div
className="tl">NatureConflictPatriotismGender
RolesLove</div></div>

<div className="group-header" style={{ backgroundColor: "color-mix(in srgb, #10b981
8%, var(--color-bg))", color: "#059669" }}><span className="inline-block size-2 rounded-full
bg-emerald-500" /> Morality & Relationships</div>

<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#10b981" }}><div className="pn">A
Lesson for This Sunday</div><div
className="tl">InnocenceCrueltyNatureLoss
of InnocenceHuman
NatureMortalityReligion</div></div>

<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#10b981" }}><div className="pn">A
Stone's Throw</div><div
className="tl">ViolenceReligionGender
PoliticsAbuseConflictDesireHypocrisy
DynamicsDisappointment /
DisillusionmentAngerMoralityGrace /
MercyDeterminationEmpathy</div></div>

<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#10b981" }}><div
className="pn">Test Match Sabina Park</div><div
className="tl">ConflictPatriotismRejectionChaos</div></div>

<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#10b981" }}><div className="pn">My
Parents</div><div
className="tl">OppressionBullyingYouth /
ChildhoodFamily
RelationshipsForgivenessDisappointment /
DisillusionmentSocial
BarriersConflictSelf-EsteemDesiresPower
DynamicsFearAngerViolence</div></div>

<div className="group-header" style={{ backgroundColor: "color-mix(in srgb, #0ea5e9
8%, var(--color-bg))", color: "#0284c7" }}><span className="inline-block size-2 rounded-full
bg-sky-500" /> War & Resistance</div>

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<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#0ea5e9" }}><div
className="pn">Landscape Painter, Jamaica</div><div
className="tl"><span>Nature</span><span>Art</span><span>Places</span><span>Admiration</span></div>
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#0ea5e9" }}><div
className="pn">Dulce et Decorum Est</div><div
className="tl"><span>Conflict</span><span>War</span><span>Patriotism</span><span>Love</span></div>
/
Disillusionment</span><span>Illness</span><span>Death</span><span>Chaos</span><span>Heroism</span></div>
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#0ea5e9" }}><div
className="pn">This Is the Dark Time, My Love</div><div
className="tl"><span>Oppression</span><span>Conflict</span><span>War</span><span>Love</span></div>
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#0ea5e9" }}><div className="pn">O'
Higue</div><div className="tl"><span>Folklore /
Superstition</span><span>Death</span><span>Frustration /
Anger</span><span>Conflict</span><span>Disappointment /
Disillusionment</span><span>Motherhood</span><span>Violence</span><span>Desire</span><span>D
/ Immortality</span></div></div>
<div className="group-header" style={{ backgroundColor: "color-mix(in srgb, #8b5cf6 8%,
var(--color-bg))", color: "#7c3aed" }}><span className="inline-block size-2 rounded-full
bg-violet-500" /> Self, Place & Mortality</div>
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#8b5cf6"
}}><div className="pn">Mirror</div><div className="tl"><span>Youth
/ Ageing</span><span>Self-Esteem</span><span>Disappointment /
Disillusionment</span><span>Nature</span><span>Conflict (Internal)</span><span>Female
Roles / Gender</span><span>Politics</span><span>Desires</span><span>Frustration /
Anger</span></div></div>
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#8b5cf6" }}><div
className="pn">South</div><div
className="tl"><span>Nature</span><span>Patriotism</span><span>Love /
Admiration</span><span>Nostalgia /
Memory</span><span>Desire</span><span>Regret</span><span>Travel /
Migration</span><span>Oppression</span><span>Satisfaction /
Happiness</span><span>Determination</span><span>Rural vs Urban
Life</span></div></div>
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#8b5cf6" }}><div
className="pn">Death Be Not Proud</div><div
className="tl"><span>Death</span><span>Religion</span><span>Powerlessness</span><span>Mortality
/ Immortality</span><span>Defiance</span></div></div>

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<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#8b5cf6" }}><div
className="pn">Dreaming Black Boy</div><div
className="tl"><span>Racism</span><span>Oppression</span><span>Dreams /
Aspirations</span><span>Youth /
Childhood</span><span>Desires</span><span>Disappointment /
Disillusionment</span><span>Self-Esteem</span><span>Travel</span><span>Social
Barriers</span><span>Conflict</span><span>Power
Dynamics</span><span>Fear</span><span>School /
Education</span><span>Violence</span><span>Determination</span><span>Resilience</span></div></div>
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RelationshipsFamily RelationshipsDesires / ExpectationsCommitment /

BetrayalTradition</div></div>

<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f59e0b" }}><div className="pn">The Woman Speaks to the Man Who Has Employed Her Son</div><div

className="tl">PowerlessnessViolenceDeathAngerRelationshipsConflictDisappointment /

DisillusionmentDreams /

AspirationsDesiresReligionMoralityPower DynamicsFemale Roles /

GenderPoliticsHopeResilience</div></div>

<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#f59e0b" }}><div className="pn">It Is the Constant Image of Your Face</div><div

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NatureMortalityReligion</div></div>

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PoliticsAbuseConflictDesireHypocrisyDynamicsDisappointment /

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Childhood</span><span>Family
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Disillusionment</span><span>Social
Barriers</span><span>Conflict</span><span>Self-Esteem</span><span>Desires</span><span>Power
Dynamics</span><span>Fear</span><span>Anger</span><span>Violence</span></div></div>
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/
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```
Disillusionment</span><span>Illness</span><span>Death</span><span>Chaos</span><span>Heroism</span></div>
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<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#0ea5e9" }}><div
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```
<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#0ea5e9" }}><div className="pn">Ol'
Higue</div><div className="tl"><span>Folklore /
Superstition</span><span>Death</span><span>Frustration /
Anger</span><span>Conflict</span><span>Disappointment /
Disillusionment</span><span>Motherhood</span><span>Violence</span><span>Desire</span><span>D
/ Immortality</span></div></div>
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</div>
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Disillusionment</span><span>Nature</span><span>Conflict (Internal)</span><span>Female
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<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#8b5cf6" }}><div
className="pn">South</div><div
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```

AdmirationNostalgia /
 MemoryDesireRegretTravel /
 MigrationOppressionSatisfaction /
 HappinessDeterminationRural vs Urban
 Life</div></div>

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<div className="poem-row" style={{ borderLeftColor: "#8b5cf6" }}><div
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Aspirations</span><span>Youth /
Childhood</span><span>Desires</span><span>Disappointment /
Disillusionment</span><span>Self-Esteem</span><span>Travel</span><span>Social
Barriers</span><span>Conflict</span><span>Power
Dynamics</span><span>Fear</span><span>School /
Education</span><span>Violence</span><span>Determination</span><span>Resilience</span></div></div>
```

```
</div>
```

Remember

- Theme wording can vary between teachers and exam boards — the core ideas matter more than exact labels.
- Use this page as a revision index, then open each poem's article for evidence and quotations.