

Unit 2.3: Beauty

Worksheet B

Analysing Carol Ann Duffy's poem, 'The Diet'

Answer the questions below to help you with your close analysis of Carol Ann Duffy's poem in Text 2.27, *The Diet*. You can answer the questions on a copy of the poem itself (by annotating it in-depth) or by completing this worksheet. Use the answers to support your individual oral.

- 1 What happens to the speaker in stanza 3, and why is that central to understanding the plot of the poem? What happens to the woman in the last stanza of the poem?
- 2 Who does the speaker characterise, and how would you describe the woman she characterises?
- 3 Who is the speaker of the poem, how would you characterise her and what is her perspective? How do you know this?

4 List all the different locations or places the main character finds herself within the poem.

5 How does the poet personify the main character in the poem? Why?

6 List three of the most striking images. Why are they so powerful?

a

b

c

- 7 Choose three techniques (e.g. simile, metaphor, lexical clusters, enjambment, caesura, stanza structure, setting, conflict, tone) and analyse them.

a

b

c

- 8 How does the poem end? Why is it ironic? What effect does it have on the reader?

- 9 What larger ideas are presented in this poem about the representation of anorexia, women, diets and food?

- 10 Consider how this poem connects to your global issue and the prompt you must answer in your individual oral: *Examine the ways in which the global issue of your choice is presented through the content and form of two of the texts that you have studied.*