

Bildungsroman



Identities - poetry



19th Century - themes



Purpose & Perspective



Shakespeare



Spoken Language



Year 9 Knowledge Organiser: Identities & Context for Poetry

Identity

- the fact of being, or feeling that you are, a particular type of person, organization, etc.
- the qualities that make a person, organization, etc. different from others

Context

- the situation within which something exists or happens, and that can help explain it:
- the influences and events related to a particular event or situation

Why use poetry as a form for expressing ideas about identity?



Social: aspects of society and its structure



Cultural: aspects of culture – ways of living, beliefs and values of groups of people

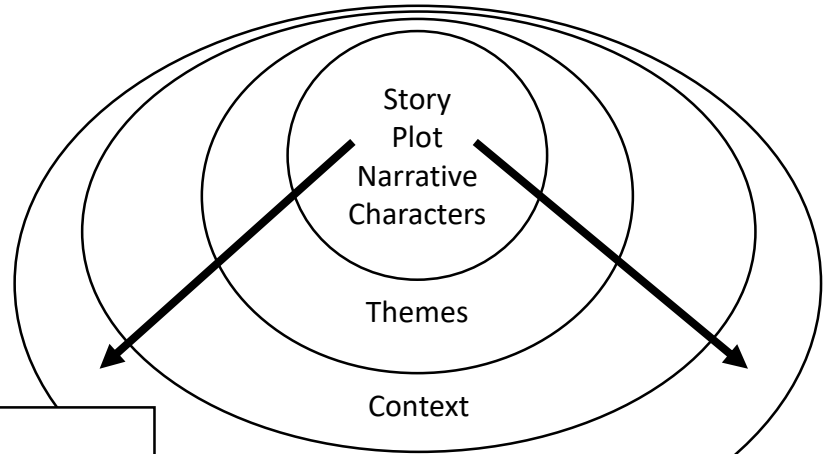


Political: the way political issues are reflected



Historical: aspects of the society and culture at the time when texts are set, and written

The writer...	Advocates <i>Puts forward a certain opinion</i>	Amplifies <i>Emphasises by adding extra impact</i>	Constructs <i>Builds up an idea</i>
Conveys <i>Gets across a message/ idea/ theory</i>	Defines <i>Gives us the meaning of something</i>	Demonstrates <i>Provides a clear explanation/ example</i>	Emphasises <i>Draws attention to something</i>
Evokes <i>Brings about a strong feeling or idea</i>	Exhibits <i>Displays a certain attitude/tendency</i>	Foreshadows <i>Hints at subsequent events/themes</i>	Highlights <i>Draws clear attention by making it stand out</i>
Identifies <i>Provides the clear meaning of something specific</i>	Illustrates <i>Creates a distinct image</i>	Implies <i>Suggests something beyond the obvious</i>	Indicates <i>Acts as a clear pointer or a signpost</i>
Mirrors <i>A similar or the same image/ theme</i>	Portrays <i>Represents something/ someone in a certain way</i>	Presents <i>Introduces an idea</i>	Proposes <i>Puts forward an idea/ theory</i>
Reiterates <i>Repeats or supports the same point/ feeling/ idea</i>	Reveals <i>Makes a meaning clear that was previously unclear</i>	Signifies <i>Uses a word or a sign to make the meaning clear</i>	The idea of ... By... Through... To



WHY?

Big ideas/ reasons/ rationale

Imtiaz Dharker, 'The Right Word' (2006)

- Dharker was born in the Punjab, Pakistan in 1954.
- She grew up in Glasgow in a Lahori household -her family moved when she was less than one year old.
- Now divides her time between India, Wales and London.
- She describes herself as a Scottish Muslim Calvinist, adopted by India and married into Wales.

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- The poem is set against the sensitive post-9/11 backdrop of political and religious tensions

Benjamin Zephaniah, 'The British' (2003)

- Zephaniah was born 15th April 1958 Birmingham
- Struggled at school due to dyslexia and left school at 13 years old.
- Got involved with street gangs and at 14 years old, Benjamin was sent to Borstal
- Spent 2 years in prison for gang related offences. Whilst in prison, he decided to change his life.
- He moved to London in 1979 (aged 22) and published his first poetry collection in 1980
- Has spoken a lot about his personal experiences of anti-Black racism in Britain Rejected an OBE, "Me? I thought, OBE me? Up yours, I thought. I get angry when I hear that word 'empire'; it reminds me of slavery..."

Edward Kamau Braithwaite , 'Limbo' (1973)

- Braithwaite is a Caribbean writer. Born 1930, died 2020.
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- In the 18th Century several European countries invaded the West Indies and established colonies.
 - Slaves were captured in Africa and brought to the islands to work on sugar plantations.
 - Many of them died on the journey across the Atlantic.
 - An estimated 15 million Africans were transported to the Americas before 1540 and 1850
 - 20% of those in the holds of the slave ships died before they even reached their destination.
 - Britain banned the slave trade in 1807
 - Slavery was eventually abolished in the US in 1865.

Moniza Alvi, 'Presents from my Aunts in Pakistan' (1993)

- Moniza Alvi was born in Lahore, Pakistan, to a Pakistani father and a British mother.
- Her father moved to Hatfield, Hertfordshire, in England when she was a few months old.
- She did not revisit Pakistan until after the publication of one of her first books of poems.
- Alvi said: 'If I think about my work as a whole, I can see that there is a theme of a split, a split I try to mend"

Elizabeth Brewster, Where I Come From (2000)

- Brewster was born in 1922 in the small lumber/ logging town of Chipman, New Brunswick, Canada.
- Came from an impoverished background
- Dropped out of public school at a young age because she did not have warm clothing to wear during the winter.
- On the strength of her intelligence and self-education, however, she attended the University of New Brunswick from 1942–46.
- New Brunswick, is on the eastern seaboard of the North American continent. It is Canada's only officially bilingual province, French and English having equal status.

Grace Nichols "Island Man" (1984)

- Grace Nichols was born in 1950 in Georgetown, Guyana
- She lived in a village on the coast until her family moved to the city when she was eight years old
- She took a Diploma in Communications and subsequently worked as a teacher (1967–70), as a journalist and in government information services.
- She immigrated to the UK in 1977