

Year 12 A level Language and Literature Summer Work

A level English language and literature Summer Task

First Love

Waking, with a dream of first love forming real words,
as close to my lips as lipstick, I speak your name,
after a silence of years, into the pillow, and the power
of your name brings me here to the window, naked,
to say it again to a garden shaking with light.

This was a child's love, and yet I clench my eyes
till the pictures return, unfocused at first, then
almost clear, an old film played at a slow speed.

All day I will glimpse it, in windows of changing sky,
in mirrors, my lover's eyes, wherever you are.

And later a star, long dead, here, seems precisely
the size of a tear. Tonight, a love-letter out of a dream
stammers itself in my heart. Such faithfulness.

You smile in my head on the last evening. Unseen
flowers suddenly pierce and sweeten the air.

Essay Question: Explore the ways Duffy presents memories of love in *First Love*

1. Read and annotate the poem, focusing on ideas about memory and love. Remember to identify key language and literature features using keywords
2. Plan your essay – you should include an introduction, 3 main points and a conclusion
3. Write your essay! Please write approximately 1,500 words. Use the skills you learnt at GCSE level to help you organise your essay and paragraphs. Do not type your essay – write by hand on lined paper.