Context
- Written in 1899
- Boer War - 1880-81 (South Africa)
- Bike (person) is common to London in 19th cent.
- English poet and novelist
- Focuses on tragedy

Structure
- 2 stanzas: "Tragedy" + "Irrancy"
- Large role in conveying anti-war poet/massege
- Juxtaposes "hoped return" with death
- Reader feels more sympathetic
- Fragmented with flashes
- Emphasises significance
- Wife's despondency as she comes to terms with reality

Form
- Narrative: Reveives and her husband has died
- Postman brings letter written by husband
- Looking forward to reunion

ABAB, regular - no sing-song quality - somber tone
pace changes - shorter sentences whereas first stanza is descriptive

Dramatic irony
- Describes husband's letter to be full of "hoped return"
- Audience knows he's dead
- Naively sparks sympathy
- Audience in me first line - passive verb
- Feels useless and incomplete - waiting for letters
- Foreshadowing
- Gummer's cold - "waning taper"
- Foreshadows his death over the loss of light
- Her happiness is gone
- Light symbolises hope - 3rd stanza
- Contrast between telegram and letter
- Telegram flashed and delivered by messengers knock
- Shaped story - unsympathetic, hurt
- Letter - "fresh form" - lengthy

Key Themes
- Loss - Juxtaposition of soldiers
- Optimism and war
- Humanises the dream theme
- Husband whilst the telegram is formal and unknown

Links
- Monette Wood
- Dolce ed Odi

Relationships - "new love" - love shared between two

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