

- You are interested in the social context and implications of texts, rather than the Freudian individual psychology of fictional characters/writers. You believe it is the individual's social context which determines his/her psychology.
- You investigate the social and political contexts of texts/writers and see them as manifestations of particular historical struggles.
- You focus on the historical point at which the text was written, with emphasis on the class struggle.
- You investigate how the text was perceived by both contemporary and later readers/audiences in terms of its social/political message.
- You are also interested in how the plot, setting, characters etc may reflect the idea of class-division, social injustice, resistance or revolution.

Critics of Carol Ann Duffy and Pugh

DUFFY

"I have never felt that her sexuality is an issue in her work, she has largely managed to transcend the issue by virtue of writing good poems as opposed to gender studies," - Peter Jay

"She was the first poet to push language and form to their limits and tensions, to articulate that bankrupt and dislocated era..." - Lavinia Greenlaw

PUGH

"...a poet capable of dealing with difficult themes, intent on restoring threads of language where they have unravelled..."

Gerard Woodward, *Poetry Review*

"...all of the poems are carefully constructed and each makes its point with economy and power..."

Vernon Scannell, *Daily Telegraph*

"...The perspective is challenging, mischievous, perverse even. What better compliment could one give..?"

Rhys Williams, *New Welsh Review*