

<p>The smile on your mouth was the dearest thing Alive enough to have strength to die;</p>	<p>Smile - normally associated with joy = reminder of bitterness of poem Dearest thing - use of superlative highlights Hardy's pain. It is also a paradox (nothing can be more dead than something else) to show the ache of his emotions. Alive enough... - it's alive enough to make it painful – 'die' suggests it was love fated to fail.</p>
<p>And a grin of bitterness swept thereby Like an ominous bird a-wing....</p>	<p>Ominous bird a-wing - sign of bad luck to come, associated with fortune telling Ominous - hints that lover is evil Stanza 3 sustains dismal mood and increases feeling of menace, with uses of paradox, emjambment (creates anticipation), irony (words played)</p>
<p>Since then, keen lessons that love deceives, And wrings with wrong, have shaped to me</p>	<p>Love deceives - with hindsight the narrator can see that love is doomed and that he has now learnt his lessons = love deceived him 'wings' suggests emotions are completely wrung out – exhausted all emotion.</p>
<p>Your face, and the God curst sun, and a tree, And a pond edged with grayish leaves</p>	<p>Curst- the sun is no longer just turned off, he is cursed - Hardy is BITTER/ RESENTFUL/ SULLEN Repetition at the beginning and end - same scenery, but at the end it is less poetic symbolising how the narrator has learnt his lesson. Everything is clearer, more bare = "he understands now"</p>

Form:

Four tetrameter quatrains: regularity conveys perpetual cycle of life and death, the passage of time, non-stop, eternal

Enclosed rhyme scheme (a b b a): repetitive, predictable like relationship. Middle lines are 'trapped' in the middle echoing how narrator felt in relationship?

Cyclic: Words 'gray' 'pond' + 'God' repeated at the end giving poem cyclic quality - reflects the continuous 'flow'/ fluidity of life