

Love Poetry Discussion Questions

"I Am Offering This Poem" (Elements, p. 483)

1. Lyric poetry is a form of expressing strong feelings. What two strong feelings does the first stanza suggest?
2. Why is the speaker offering the poem?
3. What does the speaker want the person he is addressing to remember?

"It's Raining in Love" (Elements, p. 251)

4. To what is the speaker referring when he says, "I don't say the right things / or perhaps I start / to examine, evaluate, compute what I am saying"?
5. Why does the speaker say he gets "a little creepy"?
6. Why does the speaker mention the "clear blue California sky"?

"Heart! We will forget him!" (Elements, p. 487)

7. Who is the speaker of Dickinson's poem, and whom is the speaker talking to?
8. Dickinson personifies her heart by telling it to do things that only a person can do. What does she tell her heart? What does she mean by "warmth" and "light"?
9. What does the speaker in the poem want to do?

"The Flying Cat" (Elements, p. 514)

10. Free Verse: How does the first stanza differ from the second structurally?
11. Explain what the speaker means by "the private language of pain" (line 23). What significance do you see in the fact that she says she realizes that pain again?
12. Is this poem about more than the cat? How does the last stanza extend the meaning of the poem?