



Valentine

by Carol Ann Duffy

Task Three

Carol Ann Duffy gives the onion as a gift and uses it to signify love and relationships. Draw a table like the one below, identifying what the onion is or does, and in what ways this is similar to relationships.

| The Onion | Love/Relationships |
|---|--|
| 'It is a moon wrapped in brown paper. It promises light.' | <i>The 'brown paper' is the outer skin of the onion, the comparison also supports the ideas of a gift. The reference to the 'moon' is common in romantic poetry, it 'promises light' like the moon, and perhaps, like the optimism at the beginning of a new relationship.</i> |
| 'It will blind you with tears like a lover.' | |
| 'It will make your reflection a wobbling photo of grief.' | |
| 'Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips, possessive and faithful.' | |
| 'Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding-ring if you like.' | |
| 'Lethal Its scent will cling to your fingers, Cling to your knife.' | |

Because the poet writes about her relationship as if it is an onion, we can say that she uses a METAPHOR. Because she returns to the image over and over again, and continually develops the comparison, we can refer to the language device as an EXTENDED METAPHOR.

The table that you have completed illustrates how the extended metaphor works in both its representation of love, and also the development of the image.

