# Task 1: Water

In what ways might water be an appropriate image to use when exploring love? Use the following questions to mind map ideas.

1. What properties does water have?
2. Where can water be found in nature/the weather?
3. What could you say about the relationship between people and water?

**Water**

**Extension:** How would you describe water in a fountain in comparison to water in a well? If the water symbolises love, what might each of these suggest about a relationship?

# Task 2: Imaginative imagery

If you were going to choose an object/natural feature/place to symbolise the ending of a relationship, what would you choose? Draw your image and annotate it with reasons for your choice.

**For example:**

*A chain might be an effective symbol for a break-up because it implies there is still a link with the other person. It might suggest you cannot escape your feelings for the other person. It might imply you feel trapped or controlled by events. Metal is cold and hard – this might represent the other person (or you!).*

# Task 3: Analysing language and imagery

After reading the poem, choose one group of questions to answer.

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| 1. How might someone feel if they were ‘poor’? How might we link this to the break-up of a relationship?
2. How recent do you think this break-up was and why? Use evidence from the poem.
3. ‘Heart’s door’ is an example of which technique? Why might the image of a door be relevant when thinking about relationships?
4. What is the effect of the word ‘flow’ being repeated?
5. Can you detect any bitterness in stanza 1 and if so where? What other feelings do you think the speaker has?
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| 1. Which sound technique is used in line 2? What does it add to the tone of the poem?
2. Define the word ‘consecrated’ (looking it up if you need to). How much did the speaker value their relationship?
3. Which word suggests change in line 3?
4. Which three adjectives are used to describe love in line 10? Look at each one in turn and analyse what impression of love is created through this word choice.
5. Which two adjectives are used to describe love in line 12? Look at each one in turn and analyse what impression of love is created through this word choice.
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| 1. Wordsworth describes the well as ‘deep’ and ‘never dry’. What might this imply about the speaker’s love?
2. What words suggest stillness or lifelessness in the final stanza?
3. Look up and define the word ‘obscurity’. What is the experience of breaking up like, bearing this word in mind?
4. The final two lines are very similar to the opening three lines. What word beginning with ‘c’ might describe the structure Wordsworth is employing here? What might it suggest about his desperation?
5. Which rhyming technique closes each stanza? How might this impact the tone of the poem?
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# Task 4: Exploring structure

Wordsworth employs caesura in many lines of this poem, as well as end-stopping the vast majority of his lines. Look at the following version of the poem, where the punctuation has been removed. Compare this version to the correct one, then discuss and make notes (you can annotate below if you wish):

* Caesura can often seem like an unnatural pause. What does Wordsworth want us to pause and contemplate when he uses this mid-line punctuation?
* What does the use of ‘?’ and ‘!’ add to the tone?
* Where is enjambment used and why might he run one line into the next?

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| There is a change and I am poorYour love hath been nor long agoA fountain at my fond heart's doorWhose only business was to flowAnd flow it did not taking heedOf its own bounty or my needWhat happy moments did I countBlest was I then all bliss aboveNow, for that consecrated fountOf murmuring sparkling living loveWhat have I shall I dare to tellA comfortless and hidden wellA well of love it may be deepI trust it is and never dryWhat matter if the waters sleepIn silence and obscuritySuch change and at the very doorOf my fond heart hath made me poor |

# Task 5: Comparison

Which other poems from the relationships cluster explore feelings of desperation and sadness? Choose one and consider what comparisons and contrasts you can identify using the following prompts.

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|  | **Similarities** | **Differences** |
| How word choice presents desperation and sadness |  |  |
| How structure and/or form emphasise desperation and sadness |  |  |
| Ideas linked to desperation and sadness |  |  |
| How sound devices emphasise desperation or sadness |  |  |
| How imagery emphasises desperation or sadness |  |  |