

TRANSCRIPTION

00:00

greetings and welcome back to room 303

00:02

AP English the Roberts lectures we are

00:04

at the poetry section and we now turn to

00:06

Lily's books snowdrops her 1992 offering

00:12

thought born in 1943 a great American

00:15

poet poet laureate consultant and poetry

00:18

to Library of Congress in 2003 she did

00:22

win the National Book Award for poetry

00:24

in 2014 for her faithful and a virtuous

00:27

night let's just take a look at this

00:29

really amazing little poem and at to be

00:33

already write down the power of metaphor

00:36

shall we take a look snowdrops do you

00:42

know what I was how I lived you know

00:46

what despair is then winter should have

00:49

meaning for you I did not expect to

00:53

survive Earth sir pressing me I didn't

00:57

expect to waken again to feel in damp

01:01

earth my body able to respond again

01:04

remembering after so long how to open

01:07

again in the cold light of earliest

01:10

spring afraid yes

01:14

but among you again crying yes risk joy

01:20

in the raw wind of the new world now of

01:27

course snowdrops and I would recommend

01:29

that you google image needs to make sure

01:31
that you know what we're talking about
01:32
the the beautiful the beautiful plant
01:34
flower snowdrops become a symbol in this
01:38
poem of why well we can say this is the
01:41
Phoenix myth this is the notion of
01:43
Resurrection this is the notion of
01:45
renewal notice we begin with the
01:48
question it's a rhetorical question in
01:50
many ways inviting the reader into the
01:54
poem the way Whitman will play the same
01:56
game and song of myself as we've said in
01:58
other lectures
01:59
weren't strong doubt that do you know
02:01
what I was how I lived
02:03
and then notice you know what despair is
02:06
then winter should have meaning for you
02:10
now the notion of snowdrops of course
02:13
and the idea that winter can be
02:16
understood symbolically as well and then
02:18
and then of course in the second stanza
02:20
we begin to realize we're not actually
02:21
talking about plants at all we're
02:23
talking about an individual who is
02:25
trying to understand how to survive the
02:28
experience of death and rebirth I didn't
02:32
expect to survive earth suppressing me I
02:36

didn't expect to waken again notice the
02:39
repetition of I didn't write to feel in
02:42
damp earth my body able to respond again
02:45
and then of course the key word
02:48
remembering after so long how to open
02:52
again and obviously you know when many
02:55
of many of our students at 3:03 have
02:57
read this poem is what it's like to go
02:59
through the loss of a relationship and
03:01
then they have to come back and learn
03:03
how to open again and of course snowdrop
03:05
so the perfect word picture for that in
03:08
the cold light of earliest spring and
03:10
obviously spring has tuned it has that
03:13
idea just like our study of Shelley's
03:15
ode to the west wind if winter comes can
03:17
spring be far behind that notion of
03:19
regeneration we might say then notice
03:22
the use of the - at line 11 reminding us
03:25
a lot of Emily Dickinson's poetry what
03:28
very influenced by Emily Dickinson
03:30
afraid yes but among you again notice
03:35
the word you hear it's almost like
03:37
speaking with other snowdrops you might
03:39
say crying
03:41
yes we think of the Molly section in
03:43
James Joyce's Ulysses the great novel

03:45
risk joy and here again we can't help
03:50
but think about that word joy as being
03:52
the culmination of what rebirth is all
03:54
about you go through the pain to get to
03:57
the joy in the raw wind of the new world
04:03
of course a beautiful to finish the poem
04:05
and it is a new world isn't it every
04:07
time one goes through resuscitation
04:09
every time one goes through the Phoenix
04:11
like rebirth and obviously a to a that
04:14
is the key here like right life is about
04:16
renewal life is about resurrection
04:18
obviously a to be well notice the power
04:21
of the metaphor is brilliant isn't it
04:23
and of course word choice as well like
04:25
notice no punctuation and M line 13
04:28
between crying yes risk joy right that
04:34
that notion of recognizing the beauty of
04:38
this just to point out of course we are
04:41
working with you know the 14 light
04:46
offering so to that degree just do do
04:49
know this a 14 line offering here is in
04:52
fact a sonnet right
04:54
and so it's brilliant a to be at 3 a
04:56
well there's so many so many I mean for
04:59
us because TSLA is such an important
05:01

part of what we do in 303 were often
05:03
thinking about for quartets and
05:05
especially these concur that second part
05:07
what is the link November doing with the
05:09
disturbance of the spring and creatures
05:11
of the summer he lilacs and snowdrops
05:14
writing under feet and hollyhocks the
05:17
name to high rent in degree and
05:18
tumbledown great length roses filled
05:21
with early snow that that notion of
05:24
the snowdrops writing under feet clearly
05:27
as well being played here in in this
05:30
poem of course Dickinson's I taste the
05:33
liquor I never taste the liquor never
05:35
brewed a text of Roberts as well comes
05:39
to mind no doubt how about this one at
05:41
3b what was a time that you had to
05:43
overcome
05:43
you had to risk to be able to gain that
05:47
rejuvenation and ultimately joy what was
05:51
a time for you when that had to happen
05:53
when you had to go through
05:55
Payne remember our study of Plato's
05:57
Republic in the cave allegory you have
05:59
to go through the pain of fear and pain
06:01
to be able to get out of the cave
06:04
to gain the joy the satisfaction of the

06:07

emancipation of perspicacity we might

06:10

say and of course this is a poem about

06:11

perspicacity about learning about

06:13

remembering no go well there you go I

06:16

hope more luck poems are in are in your

06:19

future they are of course at ours thank

06:21

You

(Louse Gluck's Snowdrops at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tI5VQWdRmPg>)