Lesson 13 - February 4th, 2025. Anne Hathaway: themes. A sonnet or a dramatic monologue?



Structure



- ***Sonnet, Dramatic monologue***
- Duffy's "Anne Hathaway" is a sonnet spoken in the voice of Anne Hathaway, Shakespeare's wife. Because Duffy imagines the speaker as one distinct character, we can call this poem a dramatic monologue. A dramatic monologue doesn't have to follow any set form, it just has to be spoken in the voice of a specific persona, real or imagined.
- "Anne Hathaway" does have a form, though. It's a sonnet! It follows the most basic sonnet rule: it has fourteen lines. But that's pretty much it – otherwise, it breaks a lot of rules. For example, it has no formal rhyme scheme.





STEP 1

Going back to the previous lesson:

Let's consider the **themes in Anne Hathaway.**

- **love as creation** (comparison: love and intimacy to the act of writing poetry)

- **memory and legacy**: Anne treasures "*the second best-bed*" as a repository of their shared experience

- **transformation of the mundane.** C. Duffy reclaims the material object - the bed - and imbuses it with emotional and symbolic value, countering its historical interpretation as an insult.

STEP 2

What have we learnt about the Dramatic Monologue?

Now, consider the new poem structure. What strikes your attention about the language?
