

## Unfamiliar Texts Exam Practice

**Roses Are Red** by Ms Tracie Lark - Resource created by J. Jackson.

1. This poem is about the cycle of love and life. The **title** is taken from an old rhyme that lovers might have said to one another in declaration of their affection:

Roses are **red**, violets are **blue**,  
Sugar is sweet and so are you

2. In an interview with Ms Lark she stated that,... *“the writer's purpose (I think!) is to break the clinical expectation of a cliché and also show that where there is light there is darkness in the forms of humanity. And also yes, love is an onion, love has layers etc. I was thinking of how small we are in the universe and how small the gesture is of giving a red rose compared to the feelings - and I guess major tramp that the journey of loving someone can be - which it is often trying to represent.”*

**Read and annotate the poem and complete the close reading tasks below:**

**Title:**

What does the title suggest the poem may be about?

**Subject matter and key idea:**

What is the poem about?

**Look up the following words used in the poem and decode their meaning (in relation to the poem)**

quintessential -

motif -

anthropological layers -

logarithmic spirals -

unfurling -

Utopian universe -

Fibonacci galaxy-

Find examples of these language features and write them out. What is the effect of each?

Language Feature Example	Effect
Cliche -	
Personification -	
Metaphor -	
Alliteration -	
Repetition -	
Imagery -	

Answer the following question:

***Critically analyse how the writer develops the symbolism of the rose, for love and/or life, with reference to two or more language features.***

Brief introduction identifying the key idea in the poem

Discuss the use of the first language feature:

Supporting evidence (from the poem):

Analysis (writer's intention):

Discuss the use of the second language feature:

Supporting evidence (from the poem):

Analysis (writer's intention):

Conclusion: