

English

Themes in 'The Birth-day'

Lesson 12 of 12

Miss Baldry



*“Here, amidst jewels, feathers, flowers,
The senseless Duchess sits demure,
Heedless of all the anxious hours
The sons of modest worth endure.”*

***“‘Take physic, Pomp!’ let Reason say:
‘What can avail thy trappings rare?
The tomb shall close thy glittering day,
The beggar prove thy equal there!’”***



Pause the video to complete your task

Write a paragraph to explore the turning point in 'The Birth-day'

1. Make a comment on the poem before the turning point. What tone and feeling is set up?	Comment on the two part stanza structure. Robinson criticises ...
2. Use a 'However' sentence to indicate the turning point in the poem.	However, ... Comment on the turning point and the change that occurs: criticism - mockery
3. Make a comment on the poem after the turning point. How has it changed?	Comment on how Robinson mocks the upper classes in the final stanza.

