

2008 Higher Level Exam Question

An example of self-pity is examined in the poem 'Unfair'. In this piece Ovid describes misery in love. His partner seems to get upset with him very frequently and it appears he is growing very tired of her false accusations against him. He feels like he cannot do anything right because he was always getting in trouble. "If I admire one, you tear out my hair by the roots, if not you think I am concealing my guilt." The poet expresses how he feels disheartened by the fact that nothing he does is good enough, he even goes as far to say that he wished he had done something wrong because at least that way he could accept the punishment. Clearly Ovid is feeling very sorry for himself due to his dysfunctional relationship.

The second theme I will mention is the concept of love. In the poem Baucis and Philemon Ovid creates a beautiful story of an old couple. They are poor and do not have much to offer the gods disguised as mortals who seek their help. Baucis and Philemon treat each other with great love and respect. both carry out work whenever it is needed. "...whether you asked for master or servant- the two of them were the entire household."

This clearly shows that the couple treated each other equally and it didn't matter who did what task. Ovid is brilliant has a brilliant ability to create a strong sense of love between the couple. even when the Gods granted them a wish they asked to die together. this shows that they loved each other so much they did not want to exist if the other wasn't there. when it comes to love Ovid is a gentler romantic type. in his poem myself, Ovid is trying to plead his case to a woman. he claims that he will be her slave and always remain faithful to her. "My

heart is sound and true, No gallant I of conquests vain, but faithful still to you." Ovid is trying to prove to his love interest that he will always be loving and loyal to her. he is not a wealthy man and can only offer poetry to express his deep love for her. He is trying to prove himself and assures her that he is a noble an honourable man whose heart is true and faithful. this gives a great indication of Ovid's view on love and how he values it greatly. Ovid has a brilliant ability to express the ideas of the role of women, self-pity and love throughout his poetry.