

# To My Wife - With a Copy of my Poems

I can write no stately poem  
As a prelude to my lay;  
From a poet to a poem  
I would dare to say.

For if of these fallen petals  
One to you seem fair,  
Love will waft it till it settles  
On your hair.

And when wind and winter harden  
All the loveless land,  
It will whisper of the garden,  
You will understand.

1. Analyze the shifts between each stanza. How do the tones change?
2. Analyze how the following poetic elements contribute to the poem's meaning:
  - Form
  - Imagery
  - Personification
3. Overall, what seems to be the message of the speaker, presumably Wilde, to his wife?

# The Poetry of Oscar Wilde

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## Discussion Key

I can write no stately poem  
As a prelude to my lay;  
From a poet to a poem  
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### 1. Analyze the shifts between each stanza. How do the tones change?

The first stanza is self-conscious, acknowledging a lack of proper talent for speaking to his own poem. The second is romantic, using classic floral imagery to describe his poems and the impact they may make on his wife. Then in another dramatic shift, it turns cold and straightforward, describing a cold winter contrasted with the hope of his poems, which will remind her of growth and springtime.

### 2. Analyze how the following poetic elements contribute to the poem's meaning:

Form - The poem is in ABAB form, creating a simplistic, singsongy lyric poem.

Imagery - The use of floral imagery builds on a romantic tone, and contributes to the springtime meaning of stanza 3

Personification - The poems take on different forms, first being flower petals and later whispers of springtime, giving them life and meaning beyond the page.

### 3. Overall, what seems to be the message of the speaker, presumably Wilde, to his wife?

Wilde expresses vulnerability and concern that his poems may not interest his wife, but ultimately ends with a hope that even one one will give her hope through bleak and despairing times.

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