

How does carol duffy  
create the character  
mrs midas



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Carol Ann Duffy has done several poems including Mrs Midas, others include Havisham and Education for Leisure. These three are disturbing poems, she uses images in the poems to help convey what she wants us to see and imagine is happening. In the case of Havisham she uses a disturbing character from the Charles Dickens book Great Expectations, and brings the character to life, so we can imagine what this woman looked like and how she reacted to life and her feelings about others. Whereas in Education for Leisure Duffy conveys a character in which we do not know if they are a woman or a man, but she again she uses images to convey what is happening in the poem, these images are powerful and you can imagine how the character is feeling and what is about to happen.

Also in several of her poems she uses colours to help set the mood and show how the characters are feeling which is a good way for expressing how you feel and without words. In 'Mrs Midas' Carol Ann Duffy uses the same affects but this time her key characters are of both sexes, i.e. a man and a woman. This poem unlike the other poems is a lighter introduction to what is happening. In the first stanza, she goes about setting the scene of the poem and the time of year in which the poem is happening.

The character in this stanza is unaware and clueless of the events going to take place. Due to this fact the character is relaxed 'I'd just poured a glass of wine, begun to unwind', she is watching her husband who is in the garden 'by the pear tree snapping a twig'. She is so unaware it is sort of scary thinking about what is going to happen. In stanza two, her feelings had some what changed, she is confused about what is happening in the garden, she asks herself a question (Rhetorical Question), she is wondering what is going

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on, ' I though to myself, Is he putting fairy lights on the tree', she wonders whether he is dressing up the tree. Also in this stanza she uses a simile- Sat in his palm like a light bulb.

On', he picks a pear and it starts to shine is she is still really unaware of what is happening in the garden. In stanza three, sets a new scene, he comes in the house. She is still confused and is in disbelief as she does not believe what he is doing is really happening ' I thought of the Field of the Cloth of Gold and of Miss Macready', She is wondering what is happening, has a miracle been performed or in some way is she dreaming it all. His emotions are shown by laughter ' He started to laugh'- proud.

When she uses the ' Burnished Throne' - this is ironic and is like a king of the actually myth. In stanza four, she is afraid, nervous and tries to act as normal as possible. While he enjoys the power of turning things into gold. We can tell she is scared because she ' I poured with a shaking hand,' she is scared of being turned into gold, served like a King.

It's quite ironic as the things he turns into gold are yellow anyway. In stanza five, she is shocked- hysterical almost, cautious and uses a lot of declaratives. ' It was then that I started to scream', He sank to his knees as he realises he cannot eat or drink. She drinks on her own she is scared of being turned into gold.

In stanza six, she is in disbelief- that this has come true. Also she asks rhetorical questions ' why did he do it? ' Do you know about gold? ', Gold has no practical worth. It wasn't her wish, gold can't bring you happiness. Also she has some humour- ' You'll be able to give up smoking for good', can't smoke  
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as the cigateer will turn to gold. In stanza seven, she is still scared ' I put a chair against the door near petrified', so she can't trust him, incase he comes near her and turns her into gold.

She is reminiscent what they used to be like, passionate and have lots of intimaciely ' You see, we were passionate then, in those halsyon days; unwrapping each other, rapidly'. It was like the Tomb of Tukankhamun- turning everything into gold. In stanza eight, she is in fear, and sad. She questions their relationship. She wants a baby that she can't have- refers to gold, ' Has to carry a baby, with a heart of gold', In stanza nine, she uses short sentences- decisive, address him as a ' fool', She hides away her nasty sercet.

He's a fool- fool's gold- worthless, ' the womean who married the fool, who wished for gold'. In stanza ten, she is feeling sorry for him. He can't eat, as it turns into gold. Refers to him as a lemon ' beautiful lemon mistake', is it refering to the colour, gold or him as a lemon- stupid.

Hears music of a spite, ' music of pan'. In stanza eleven, she is angry, irratated, and reminiscent. She misses his love especially at dawn and dask, in the golden sky. He gives her money for a new life. He is selfish- no thoughts for her, ' Idiocy or greed but lack of thought for me. Pure selfishness.

' Golden apples- temptation. Intimites, misses his touch, loning for him, but can never had him.