

Love poetry

Literature



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Love Poetry The poem that most mirrors my own feelings about love is “Variations on the word love” by Margaret Atwood. It uses figurative language to demonstrate some of the widely differing aspects of love, and this is what attracts me most to the poem.

The title suggests a musical allusion: variations on a theme are often used in classical music, and this shows the author’s intention to present a main idea about love, but also to explore other ideas which are related to that central point, in a playful and creative way.

The first sentence is a big contrast to the title, because it comes right down to earth with the phrase “ plug holes with.” (lines 1-2) The holes here are not literal holes in the ground, but figurative emotional gaps, such as those which occur when we are too full of emotion to speak out clearly what we are thinking.

The section of the poem that deals with “ red heart-/shaped vacancies on the page” (lines 3-4) reminds the reader of the commercialized kind of love that is promoted as part of the St Valentine’s day tradition. This idea is reinforced by the phrase “ Add lace/and you can sell/ it.” (lines 5-7)

The author’s disillusionment with these empty decorations is shown by her sudden shift to a striking reference to “ cool/debaucheries of slugs under damp pieces of cardboard.” (lines 14-16) This is an oblique reference to the sexual side of love, but it is deliberately shocking in order to contrast with the pretty decorations of commercial love.

The truest imagery of all, in my view, is that of “ a finger/ grip on a cliffside” (lines 35-36) which represents the powerful and life changing effect that love can have on people, and also the element of danger in it, at the possibility of terrible loss which can happen when love fails.

<https://assignbuster.com/love-poetry/>

Reference

Atwood, Margaret. “ Variations on the word love.” Poem.