
REVISION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways can *In Memoriam* be said to be a love poem?
2. 'The real subject of *In Memoriam* is the threat and the promise of time.' Do you agree?
3. *In Memoriam* has been called the way of the poet as well as the way of the soul. In what ways does the poem take an interest in poetry?
4. Write about how *In Memoriam* struggles to reconcile the view of 'Nature red in tooth and claw' with more positive understandings of the natural world.
5. What is the function in the poem of the cycle of the seasons, landscape and weather?
6. Do you agree that the poem's doubt is more impressive than the faith it expresses?
7. How successful are Tennyson's attempts in *In Memoriam* to deal with the discoveries of science?
8. Is *In Memoriam* an optimistic poem?
9. Is Tennyson more impressive when dealing with private or public matters?
10. Discuss the range and appropriateness of *In Memoriam's* stanza form.
11. Does *In Memoriam* have an over-all design and if so, what is it?
12. In what senses, if at all, can *In Memoriam* be said to be a unified poem?
13. 'A poem always in search of appropriate imagery.' Discuss the various images Tennyson employs to express the relationship between the poet and his dead friend.

14. Is it helpful to call *In Memoriam* a philosophical poem?
15. What kinds of changes does the poet in the poem undergo?
16. Do you find *In Memoriam* embarrassing because of its sentimentality?
17. 'The thought of *In Memoriam* is commonplace but its feelings are impressively expressed.' Discuss.
18. Does *In Memoriam* have an abiding appeal or is it merely a poetic document of a bygone age?
19. Should we praise *In Memoriam* for its variety of mood and subject matter or judge it unsuccessful because it monotonously concentrates on death and bereavement?
20. Why do you think *In Memoriam* was such a popular poem?
21. Can you suggest why many readers have found *In Memoriam* a consoling poem?
22. Are you in any way persuaded by the convictions reached by the poet in *In Memoriam*?

FURTHER READING

Editions

- Ricks, Christopher (ed.), *The Poems of Tennyson* (Longman, 1969).
Shatto, Susan and Shaw, Marion (eds), *Tennyson 'In Memoriam'* (Clarendon Press, 1982).

Biography

- Martin, Robert Bernard, *Tennyson: The Unquiet Heart* (Oxford University Press and Faber & Faber, 1983).
Tennyson, Charles, *Alfred Tennyson* (Macmillan, 1949).

Criticism

- Armstrong, Isobel, *Language as Living Form in Nineteenth Century Poetry* (Harvester, 1982).
Bradley, A. C., *A Commentary on Tennyson's 'In Memoriam'* (Macmillan, 1901).
Culler A., Dwight *The Poetry of Tennyson* (Yale, 1977).
Gransden, K. W., *Tennyson 'In Memoriam'* (Arnold, 1964).
Hunt, John Dixon (ed.), *Tennyson 'In Memoriam' (a Casebook)* (Macmillan, 1970).
Robson, W.W., *Critical Essays* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1966).
Shaw, W. David, *Tennyson's Style* (Cornell University Press, 1976).
Sinfield, Alan, *The Language of Tennyson's 'In Memoriam'* (Blackwell, 1971).
Turner, Paul, *Tennyson* (Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1976).
Willey, Basil, *More Nineteenth Century Studies* (Chatto & Windus, 1963).

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