**Term 6 Week 2 Lesson 1 Year 9**

Do now:

1. Free verse means a poem does or doesn’t rhyme?
2. Give three adjectives for the weather.
3. What is a section in a poem called?

This term you are revising the texts and skills required for your AQA English Literature Exam.

Read the following poem.

**Stealing - Poem by Carol Ann Duffy**

The most unusual thing I ever stole? A snowman.  
Midnight. He looked magnificent; a tall, white mute  
beneath the winter moon. I wanted him, a mate  
with a mind as cold as the slice of ice  
within my own brain. I started with the head.  
Better off dead than giving in, not taking  
what you want. He weighed a ton; his torso,  
frozen stiff, hugged to my chest, a fierce chill  
piercing my gut. Part of the thrill was knowing  
that children would cry in the morning. Life's tough.  
Sometimes I steal things I don't need. I joy-ride cars  
to nowhere, break into houses just to have a look.  
I'm a mucky ghost, leave a mess, maybe pinch a camera.  
I watch my gloved hand twisting the doorknob.  
A stranger's bedroom. Mirrors. I sigh like this - Aah.  
It took some time. Reassembled in the yard,  
he didn't look the same. I took a run  
and booted him. Again. Again. My breath ripped out  
in rags. It seems daft now. Then I was standing  
alone among lumps of snow, sick of the world.  
Boredom. Mostly I'm so bored I could eat myself.  
One time, I stole a guitar and thought I might  
learn to play. I nicked a bust of Shakespeare once,  
flogged it, but the snowman was the strangest.  
You don't understand a word I'm saying, do you?

**Task 1**

**Re-call questions, answer the following questions in full sentences**

1. How many stanzas are in the poem?
2. Does the poem rhyme?
3. What is the strangest thing the persona stole?
4. What does the persona do with cars?
5. Can you find an example of a rhetorical question?

**Task 2**

The poet uses the personal pronoun “I” repeatedly.

What impact does this have on the reader? Answer in a full sentence.

Underline all of the negative vocabulary in the poem.

**Task 3**

Question – How does the poet portray the character in the poem?

Model paragraph

The poet portrays the speaker in the poem as lonely and unhappy. This is shown as he repeatedly uses the personal pronoun “I”. In other words, his behaviour and actions have made him an outsider. More specifically this use of repetition gives the impression that his life is very insular and he is alienated from the outside world. The reader would wonder what has happened to him to make him such a negative person.

Your turn

Try to complete at least two paragraphs.

You could use the following sentence starters:

The poet portrays the speaker in the poem as ………

This is shown as …………

In other words ……………

More specifically …………