Task 1. Explore how the poet presents attitudes to death in this poem.

Dead Cat Poem by Ann Alexander

She who flowed like mercury, or mist
 over silent fields,
 who had seen off foxes, terrorized hedgerows, endangered
 several species of rodent,
 was now sitting on death's lap
 and feeling his cold fingers.

We stood and looked for signs of her
 in the grey bundle we had petted and stroked
 lugged and loved through the years.
 But she was looking elsewhere
 untidy fir the first time,
 dusty and in disarray

Strange that when we buried her
 beneath a flowering bush, in the sunny place
 where she loved to sit,
 we could not touch her.
 Scooped her up with a spade.

Task 2. During the summer, try to learn all the Level 1 and 2 terms on the following pages– test yourself 6 times and Red, Amber, Green how you do.

Extension – attempt to learn the other levels too!

Personalised Learning Checklist – Language Levels

Red = I have never used this word in my notes/essays
Amber = I use this word occasionally in my notes/essays
Green = I consistently use this word with confidence

Term	Definition	Term (RAG Rate)					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
Language Level 1: Lexis and Semantics							
Word class	A group of words that fulfil the same kind of role and function in speech and writing						
Noun	A word that names a thing or concept						
Verb	A word that shows a state of being, action or concept						
Adjective	A word that modifies a noun						
Adverb	A word that modifies a verb, adjective or another adverb						
Pronoun	A word that substitutes for a noun						
Determiner	A word that adds detail or clarity to a noun						
Preposition	A word that shows connections between other words often showing a sense of place or time						
Conjunction	A word that connects larger structures such as phrases, clauses and sentences						
Semantic field	A group of words related to the same subject						
Collocates	Words that typically appear together						
Fixed expression	A well-used group of words that become accepted and used as one long structure						
Synonym	A word that has equivalent meaning to another word						
Euphemism	A more socially acceptable word or phrase						
Dysphemism	Using a blunt or direct word instead of a more polite or indirect alternative, close to taboo						
Antonyms	Words that have opposite meanings						
Hyponymy	The way of viewing the relationship between more general and specific words						
Metaphor	A structure that presents one thing in terms of another						
Language Level 2: Grammar							
Morphology	The study of word formation						
Syntax	The study of how words form larger structures such as phrases, clauses and sentences						
Descriptive	Taking an approach to language study that focuses on how language is actually used						
Prescriptive	Taking an approach to language study that focusses on rules and notions of correctness						
Root	A morpheme that can stand on its own and can usually form a word in its own right						
Suffix	A morpheme that comes after a root word to modify its meaning						
Prefix	A morpheme that goes before a root word to modify its meaning						

Term	Definition						
Affix	The overall term for an addition to a root (a prefix or a suffix) to modify its meaning or create a new word (CF. infix: an affix inserted inside a root word to create a new word or modify its meaning (e.g. abso-blooming-lutely))						
Inflectional function	The way that an affix shows a grammatical category such as a verb tense or a plural noun						
Derivational function	The way that an affix helps form a new word by attaching itself to a root						
Noun phrase	A group of words built around a noun						
Verb phrase	A group of words built around a head (main) verb						
Head word	The main noun in the phrase						
Pre-modifier	A word that goes before the head noun to add detail or clarify some aspect of it						
Qualifier	An additional word or phrase that adds some further detail to the noun						
Post-modifier	A word that comes after the head noun to add detail or clarify some aspect of it						
Primary auxiliary verb	An auxiliary verb that joins with the main verb to show tense						
Modal auxiliary verb	An auxiliary verb that joins with a main verb to show the degree of commitment towards an event or person that a speaker holds						
Clause	Groups of words centred around a verb phrase						
Coordination	The joining of two clauses that gives them equal weighting						
Subordination	The joining of two clauses that gives one clause (the main clause) more weighting than another clause – or clauses (the subordinate clause(s))						
Adverbial clause	A subordinate clause that functions as an adverbial						
Noun clause	A subordinate clause that functions as a subject, object or complement						
Active voice	Agent in subject position for prominence; verb phrase in present or past tense						
Passive voice	Agent omitted or placed later in the clause using a prepositional phrase; verb phrase changes to a form of *to be* + participle form (verb root + en/ed)						
Orthographic sentence	A 'sentence' marked by a capital letter and full stop but containing no verb						
Language Level 3: Phonetics, Phonology and Prosodics							
Phonetics	The area of study that is concerned with how sounds are actually produced by language users						
Phonology	The area of study that refers to the more abstract sound system						
Prosodics	The study of how speakers can shape meanings through emphasising certain aspects of intonation, speed and volume						

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)	A system for showing the different sounds possible						
Heterophones	Words that have the same spelling but very different pronunciations and meanings						
Homophones	Words that are pronounced the same but have a different meaning and may have different spellings; e.g. there and their						
Articulators	The vocal organs above the larynx, including the lips, teeth, tongue and hard palate that help to form consonant sounds						
Diphthong	A vowel sound that is the combination of two separate sounds, where a speaker moves from one to another						
Sound iconicity	The matching of sound to an aspect of meaning						
Consonance	A pattern of repeated consonant sounds for effect						
Assonance	A pattern of repeated vowel sounds for effect						
Sibilance	A pattern of repeated fricative sounds, especially /s/, for effect						
Lexical onomatopoeia	Words that have some associated meaning between their sound and what they represent						
Non-lexical onomatopoeia	'Non-words' that nonetheless are intended to signify some meaning through their sound						
Phonological manipulation	Making creative changes in sound patterns to give certain effects						
Minimal pair	Two words that differ in only one single sound						
Language Level 4: Graphology							
Layout	The physical organisation of a text						
Iconic sign	A sign or image that is a direct picture of the thing it represents						
Symbolic sign	A sign or image where an associated meaning is drawn from some shared degree of knowledge						
Typographical feature	A feature related to the use of fonts in texts						
Multimodal text	A text that relies on the interplay of different codes (e.g. the visual and the written) to help shape meaning						
Language Level 5: Pragmatics							
Embodied knowledge	Knowledge that is associated with memories of physically experiencing something, for example the sights and smells of visiting a city						
Schema	A bundle of knowledge about a concept, person or event						
Co-text	Other words or phrases surrounding a word in a text						
Cooperative principle	The general principle that people work together to communicate						
Conversational maxims	Explicit principles that provide a backdrop for conversation to take place so that speakers can easily understand one another						
Implicature	An implied meaning that has to be inferred by a speaker as a result of one of the maxims being broken						
Positive face need	A universal human need to feel valued and appreciated						

Negative face need	A universal human need to feel independent and not be imposed upon							
Face threatening act	A speech act that has the potential to damage someone's self-esteem either in terms of positive or negative face							
Politeness strategies	Distinctive ways in which speakers can choose to speak to avoid threatening face							
Deixis	Words that are context-bound and whose meaning depends on who is using them, and where and when they are being used							
Deictic categories	Types of deictic expressions (person, spatial and temporal)							
Proximal deixis	Deictic expressions that refer to concepts, events or people close to the speaker							
Distal deixis	Deictic expressions that refer to concepts, events or people at a distance from the speaker							
Language Level 6: Discourse								
Internal evaluation	An expression of attitude towards the events in a narrative that occur in the same time frame as the main action							
External evaluation	An expression of attitude where the speaker 'stands back' from the main action							
Turn-taking	The process by which speakers co-construct conversation							
Adjacency pair	A simple structure of two turns							
Preferred response	A second part of an adjacency pair that fits in with what the speaker of the first part wants to hear							
Dispreferred response	A second part of an adjacency pair that doesn't fit in with what the speaker of the first part wants to hear							
Insertion sequence	An additional sequence between two parts of an adjacency pair							
Exchange structure	Sequence of turns between speakers							
Transition Relevance place	A point where it is natural for another speaker to take a turn							
Constraint	The influence a more powerful speaker can have on another speaker							