

## Pelican Programme Task

Respond to this poem by Carol Ann Duffy in any way you find interesting. You may wish to comment on language choices and/or aspects of form and structure that you find particularly notable. We are interested in your ideas about the poem, rather than your written style, but you should still structure your writing coherently and in full sentences. You are strongly advised to respond to this poem naturally and avoid reading any online analysis commentaries on the poem. Your response should not exceed 300 words.

Anne Hathaway

*'Item I gyve unto my wief my second best bed...'*  
(from Shakespeare's will)

The bed we loved in was a spinning world  
of forests, castles, torchlight, cliff-tops, seas  
where he would dive for pearls. My lover's words  
were shooting stars which fell to earth as kisses  
on these lips; my body now a softer rhyme  
to his, now echo, assonance; his touch  
a verb dancing in the centre of a noun.  
Some nights I dreamed he'd written me, the bed  
a page beneath his writer's hands. Romance  
and drama played by touch, by scent, by taste.  
In the other bed, the best, our guests dozed on,  
dribbling their prose. My living laughing love –  
I hold him in the casket of my widow's head  
as he held me upon that next best bed.