Litany

1. Explain the significance of the title.
2. Describe the women in this poem.
3. What is their attitude towards language?
4. What is the effect of Duffy’s revelation about the boy in the playground?
5. Comment on the effect of the following phrases:
   - ‘balanced their red smiles.’
   - ‘like a rumour’
   - ‘Their terrible marriages crackled’
   - ‘as a word was spelled out’
   - ‘The Lounge’
   - ‘malicious pause’

Stafford Afternoons

1. Briefly describe the events in this poem.
2. How does Duffy convey a sense of danger?
3. What is the effect of Duffy’s encounter with the ‘long-haired man’
4. Comment on the final stanza.

Confession

1. Try to identify the speakers in this poem.
2. Comment on the structure and punctuation in this poem.
3. Discuss tone and feelings in this poem.
4. Comment on the effect of the following phrases:
   - ‘works your conscience like a glove-puppet’
   - ‘those little maggoty things’
   - ‘in the manner approved’
   - ‘You do well to stammer’
   - ‘like Hansel and Gretel’
   - ‘there’s light on the other side of the door’

Compare and contrast these poems. What aspects of childhood are presented?