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The poems are about ...

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Look through the poems you are studying and decide which fit the following subjects/themes. Some of the poems might well fall under more than one category:

Childhood / youth

Innocence

Love

Death

Life

The past

Growing up

Certain places and times

An era

Adults

What is lost

War

School

Education

What's funny

Language

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Once you have considered the poems and possible subjects/themes carefully, think about the different ways in which Duffy writes about each aspect and what her purpose might be. Think about the various voices that discuss each subject/theme. Does any overall picture appear? What do you think Duffy's purpose is in writing about these issues? How successful is she in conveying ideas to you, as a reader?