



REMEMBER – Christina Rossetti

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CONTEXTUAL INFORMATION Christina Rossetti was born in London in 1830. Her work covers a wide range of styles and forms, and she wrote ballads, sonnets, love lyrics, nonsense rhymes and children's books. She died in 1894. She based some of her work on her own life experiences and observations of nature, but more commonly, Rossetti wrote about her thoughts on mortality and spiritual existence. Being remembered after death—it's just what makes the speaker of "Remember" tick. She keeps telling her beloved to remember her, because she's clearly somebody who is really thinking a lot about death. She's definitely a very caring person. The whole "remember me remember me remember me" might appear selfish but, by the end of the poem, the speaker shows us how selfless she actually is. In the poem's final lines, she essentially says "On second thought, it's actually better if you forget about me, because remembering me will only cause you sadness." - the ultimate gesture of selflessness.	IMAGERY • EUPHEMISM – the use of euphemisms like, 'gone away' and 'silent land' shows that the speaker finds the idea of dying and death difficult to deal with as she realizes her own mortality. It appears as if he speaker is unwilling to face the prospect of dying and the pain of those left behind. • SYMBOLISM – 'no more hold by the hand' is evident of the physical bond that exist between people and what strengthens their relationships. The separation of the hands demonstrates how death severs this physical relationship and all that would be left are memories. • METAPHOR – the metaphor is death and what happens or how people deal with the passing of a loved one. • IRONY – in lines 13 and 14 the words 'forget' and 'remember' are used and this ironic as it is an impossibility to do these.
STRUCTURE Italian/Petrarchan sonnet made up of 14 lines divided into; • An OCTAVE – which addresses the speaker's memories and concerns [the selfish side of the speaker] • The SESTET – the focus shifts to the process of 'forgetting' and moving on [the selfless side of the speaker] • The VOLTA (lines 9 -10) is the change in perception the speaker undergoes from somewhat selfish to being selfless from octave to sestet. • The RHYTHM and METRE is created with IAMBIC PENTAMETER • The RHYME SCHEME is CYCLICAL in nature as if to imitate the cycle of life and death and life after death (memories); abba abba cdd cec	THEMES This is an Elegiac poem that focusses on the themes of death, remembrance, mortality and forgiveness. The speaker goes through the pain of realizing her own mortality and the accompanying pain of her mental suffering at first and then releasing her loved one of from the responsibility of remembering her and putting her life on hold for memories.
TONE/MOOD Overall the tone is reflective and the mood somber and contemplative. In the OCTAVE (first 8 lines) the TONE is almost URGENT as in line 1 the speaker instructs her loved one to 'remember me'. The repetition on lines 5 and 7 emphasizes this. The phrases 'gone away' and 'no more' are repeated which suggests underlying grief at the thought of losing her loved one. In the SESTET the speaker's focus shifts from herself to her loved one and her tone becomes GENTLER. It appears as if she realizes that she cannot expect her loved one to grieve her passing indefinitely	DICTION 'Remember' is the one word that summarizes the poem's major theme – remembrance. This word reflects the speaker's obsession of being remembered by her loved one after her passing. Read in an imperative tone it is as if she commands not to be forgotten. However in line 10 'remember' becomes a metaphor asking to be kept alive in memory only.

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