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QUESTION TYPE: 6 Questions dealing with CENTRAL IDEA OF THE POEM (3 marks)

- This is a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 question.
- You are asked to relate the literary technique that the question has identified, to the central idea/message of the poem.

STEPS INVOLVED

- **Step One:** Identify the literary technique in the question.
- **Step Two:** Discuss this technique using evidence from the poem.
- **Step Three:** Show how the technique captures the central idea/theme/message of the poem.

PRACTICE EXERCISES	
POEM AND QUESTION	SUGGESTED RESPONSES
<i>Remember</i> / C Rossetti 'Better by far you should forget and smile Than that you should remember and be sad.' Discuss how the tone of the rhyming couplet reinforces the central idea of the poem. (3)	The speaker's tone in the rhyming couplet is a balanced and mature tone in which she reassures her beloved that it is better to smile than to be sad over her death. This reinforces the central idea of the poem which points out that it is natural to move on in life after the death of a loved one and that one should not feel guilty for forgetting her in the future. (3)
<i>Somewhere ... travelled</i> / e e cummings Nothing which we are to perceive in this world equals the power of your intense fragility: whose texture compels me with the colour of its countries, rendering death and forever with each breathing." Show how this stanza conveys the central idea of the poem. (3)	In this stanza, the speaker refers to the fragility and beauty of his beloved which cannot be equalled by any other experience. The central idea of the poem is the intense love and devotion that the speaker feels for his beloved who exercises such power over him by her beauty. Thus, this stanza reinforces the central idea of the poem. (3)

POEM AND QUESTION	SUGGESTED ANSWER
<i>Felix Randal</i> / GM Hopkin This seeing the sick endears them to us, us too it endears. My tongue had taught thee comfort, touch had quenched thy tears, Thy tears that touched my heart, child, Felix, poor Felix Randal." Discuss how the diction in this stanza reinforces the central idea of the poem. (3)	The repetition of 'endears' tells us that the speaker is warm and loving towards Felix Randal 'Quenched thy tears' conveys the comfort that the speaker offered Felix. Referring to a grown man as 'child' also suggests the tenderness the speaker feels for the dying Felix. The poem deals with the deep bond that exists between the farrier and the speaker, the priest. Therefore, the diction reinforces this bond. (3)