



Unseen Poetry

WORKSHEET

Condolence

Dorothy Parker

They hurried here, as soon as you had died,
Their faces damp with haste and sympathy,
And pressed my hand in theirs, and smoothed my knee,
And clicked their tongues, and watched me, mournful-eyed.
Gently they told me of that Other Side—
How, even then, you waited there for me,
And what ecstatic meeting ours would be.
Moved by the lovely tale, they broke, and cried.

And when I smiled, they told me I was brave,
And they rejoiced that I was comforted,
And left to tell of all the help they gave.
But I had smiled to think how you, the dead,
So curiously preoccupied and grave,
Would laugh, could you have heard the things they said.



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Exam Question

What is the poet saying about the different ways that people react to death? What methods does she use to present these ideas?

HELP BOX



What is the poem about? What is the message?

Who is the poem addressing? Why is it written in this way?

How do you think the narrator feels about the person who has died?

What do the visitors think about the afterlife? What about the narrator's view?

Why is the word "and" repeated?

How and why are the last 6 lines different from the 1st 8?

Why did they choose this title?

What is the effect of the rhythm?