 Resource 1

Resource for module A – Hughes & Plath unit

“The clue to everything a man should love and fear in her was there right from the start in the ironic smile that primed and swelled the archery of her full lips. There was pride in that smile and confidence in the set of her fine nose. Without understanding why I knew beyond question that a lot of people would mistake her pride for arrogance and confuse her confidence with impassivity. I didn't make that mistake. My eyes were lost swimming floating free in the shimmering lagoon of her steady even stare. Her eyes were large and spectacularly green. It was the green that trees are in vivid dreams. It was the green that the sea would be if the sea were perfect.”

[Gregory David Roberts](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/18907.Gregory_David_Roberts), [Shantaram](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/3174890)

“From the first day I met her, she was the only woman to me. Every day of that voyage I loved her more, and many a time since have I kneeled down in the darkness of the night watch and kissed the deck of that ship because I knew her dear feet had trod it. She was never engaged to me. She treated me as fairly as ever a woman treated a man. I have no complaint to make. It was all love on my side, and all good comradeship and friendship on hers. When we parted she was a free woman, but I could never again be a free man.”

[Arthur Conan Doyle](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2448.Arthur_Conan_Doyle), [The Return of Sherlock Holmes](https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/2445338)

[The Last Time by Taylor Swift](https://genius.com/Taylor-swift-the-last-time-lyrics)

Beyonce vs Jay-Z

Explore Beyonce’s song Hold Up from her album Lemonade. This song is usually understood to be about her husband’s infidelity. Both the music video and the lyrics are an interesting counterpoint to Plath’s reactions to Hughes’ infidelity. Explore the options in reactions open to a woman (especially one in Beyonce’s cultural position) in 2017:

[Music video of song Hold Up on Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8H5JvwExa1w&start_radio=1&list=RD8H5JvwExa1w)

[Lyrics of Hold Up](https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/beyonceknowles/holdup.html)

For Jay-Z’s response on his album 4:44 see his song Kill Jay-Z (rude words in lyrics warning! NB “Blue” refers to Beyonce, the “you” becomes Kanye West at one point, Solange is Beyonce’s sister – Kanye references the famous elevator fight over his rumoured affair – and Eric Benet is Halle Berry’s ex after his affairs)

[Music video of song Kill Jay-Z on Youtube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQLVU4j7Ejo)

[Lyrics of Kill Jay-Z](https://genius.com/12250540)

What kind of textual conversation is going on here. Note similarities and differences to Plath/Hughes:

* 1960s-90s vs 2016-17
* Poetry vs song lyric and music video
* Public profiles of the composers
* How this conversation has been ‘read’ by various interest groups.