

What does the title 'Farmhand' suggest?

By beginning the poem with 'You will see', the narrator speaks directly to the reader. What is the effect of this?

What is the effect of the phrase 'the secret night'?

Rhyme scarcely happens in the poem. Explain the effect of the use of it suddenly in the third stanza ('love-making' and 'wave breaking').

Throughout the poem, the narrator paints an image of the farmhand. He describes 'hairy hands' and 'red sunburnt face'. What do these descriptions make us think of the farmhand?

The farmhand is described as having 'awkward hopes' and 'envious dreams'. What hopes might the farmhand have that are 'awkward'? What might he be 'envious' or jealous of?

The final stanza opens with 'But, ah in harvest' and so is set apart from the rest of the poem. We expect another side of the farmhand. What do we learn about him here?

The girls on the dance floor are described as 'drifting like flowers'. What impression does this give you?