By Thomas Hardy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33cUIAaULTk
This poem is about the passing of time and how death is inevitable. Family life is shown over time and seasons and the poem ends with death and memory.
DURING WIND AND RAIN

Structure: This poem has four stanzas, each stanza has seven lines.

Language: The poet uses contrasting images in each stanza e.g “They sing their dearest songs....How the sick leaves reel down in throngs!”

He also uses symbolism with stormy weather representing the destruction that is caused by time. He also uses repetition to show that everyone is affected by the passing of time. “Ah, no; the years O!”
Stanza 1

‘During Wind and Rain’ opens with a picture of a family enjoying an evening of entertainment in candle-light.

In the first stanza one family member plays an instrument, while the rest take their turn to sing. Hardy describes how the faces in the candle-light seem round and bright like the moon. It is a lovely scene of a family enjoying a winter’s evening at home.
In Stanza 1, the scene that Hardy has set ends with a image of a stormy autumn scene with crowds of sick leaves falling off trees. This image of falling leaves stands for the **passing of time and death**. The word ‘throng’ connects the leaves with people.
Stanza 2

In the second stanza, Hardy pictures the family working together in the garden. They get rid of moss, tidy paths, add colour and make a seat in a shade. It is a joyful scene of a family working together on a spring day.

There seem to be both adults and children in this image, elders and juniors as he calls them.
At the end of Stanza 2, Hardy describes an image of wild geese crossing the sky, signalling the end of winter, but also of *time passing*. 
Stanza 3

In the third stanza, Hardy pictures the family having breakfast together in the garden. The picture is very pleasant, with nice scenery of a bay and pet birds around the family. The family seem to have grown up, because the boys and girls are referred to as men and maidens instead of ‘juniors’. It is obviously a cheerful scene from a summer morning.
The stanza ends with the image of a powerful wind tearing a rotted rose from the garden wall. The wind and rotten rose are signs of time passing and death.
In the fourth and final stanza, Hardy reveals a scene of the family moving house. The house contents are in the garden, waiting removal to the new house.
The stanza ends with the very disturbing image of the family buried in a grave where the raindrops fall on their carved names on the headstone.
Themes of During Wind and Rain

**Time**

Hardy is very aware that time moves on. Nothing lasts for-ever. All joys are temporary. Human happiness is only temporary. Each stanza ends with an image of the years passing.
Themes of During Wind and Rain

**Family**

Hardy portrays family in various activities. They entertain each other with songs, they work together in the garden, they enjoy a breakfast together in the garden and they move house together. All the images of the family emphasise their togetherness.
Themes of During Wind and Rain

Seasons

Hardy portrays different seasons. The candle-light suggests long winter evenings. The activities to make the garden colourful suggest spring. The image of a ‘summer tree’ portrays summer. Images such as the bay, the lawn, and the garden show nature in a positive light through the seasons.
Themes of During Wind and Rain

Death

No matter how happy life can be, death awaits all. Hardy ends each stanza with a reminder of death. The most striking image of death is the word ‘carved’ in the final stanza. Hardy even suggests that in time the weather will plough through the stone that contains the names of the family.
Tone of During Wind and Rain

Tone

The tone of this poem is happy and joyful at the start of each stanza. “They sing their dearest songs”. At the end of stanza 1 the tone changes dramatically to a sad one. “How the sick leaves reel down in throngs”.

Tone of During Wind and Rain

**Tone**

In each stanza we see happiness at the beginning and the last line of each stanza portrays unhappiness and sadness. “Ah no, the years, the years”. 
Conclusion

The poem contains a series of happy memories but time may wipe out all memories of a family's existence.

Everything in life comes to an end at death.