Funeral Blues
Róisin, Nicole and Aoife G
The title and poem:

Funeral blues link:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Veoxccee0Ro
Explanation of poem:

At the very start of the poem the poet says:
He wants to stop all clocks and telephones and to silence barking dogs and pianos. He says to bring out the coffin of the dead beloved, and for the mourners to come.
The poet then says write "He Is Dead" across the sky. He says that doves should wear white ribbons and that policemen should wear black gloves to commemorate the death.
The poet then starts to be personal and says: He says that the dead man was everything to him—all points of a compass, every day of the week, every time of the day. And the worst part is that this experience has taught him that love won't last forever, as he once thought.
That's when he starts to really despair. He doesn't want to see the stars, the moon, or the sun. He doesn't want to see the ocean or the forest. Now that the dead man is gone, there is no good left in the world. None at all.
what does the title mean?

- The poem ‘Funeral Blues’ is a lament for a friend. ‘Blues’ is an American word for a sad song.
- blue is a colour that we associate with being sad
Imagery

‘Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves.’
- the traffic policemen usually wear white gloves, he is saying that everyone should be mourning. Black is associated with mourning. This creates an image to show the tragedy of his loss because even the traffic policeman are mourning.

‘He was my North, my South, my East and West,’
- this shows that the man was the poets whole world. He meant everything to him and he loved him a lot. It creates an image of true love.

‘For nothing now can ever come to any good.’
- the poet feels that now because his love one has died nothing matters anymore. He cannot see the meaning of anything now. He does not believe good can come from anything now his loved one is gone. This creates an image of desperation because he cannot see the good in the world without him.
important points about structure

the lines have an even rhythm, with 4 beats per line, the poem has an even structure.
there is rhyme in each stanza.
it is an elegy which is a poem about a dead person.
the rhyme scheme is AABB
Theme

The theme of this poem is death and suffering the loss of a loved one. The poet is experiencing heartache. He is heartbroken and cannot see the good in anything now that his loved one has died. He feels life is pointless without him. The poet feels pain and desperation at the unexpected death of his loved one.
Tone

This poem is an elegy, which indicates a sad tone. We can also hear that the poet is grieving. His language implies that he is heartbroken as his loved one was his everything. ‘He was my North, my South, my East and West,’
Poetry techniques and the effect they have on the reader:

1) The first technique the poet uses is personification: This is where you give inanimate object human-like characteristics and traits. In the second stanza, Auden describes having airplanes "circle moaning overhead Scribbling on the sky."

The poet is talking about how this person's loved one had died. Airplanes can't moan or scribble; but giving an airplane the ability to do so adds depth to the poem. It makes it feel as if the airplane itself is mourning the death too.

2) The second technique used is metaphors. Metaphors compare two different things that have similar traits. In the third stanza, Auden uses metaphors to convey how much the deceased meant to the narrator. The deceased was their North, South, East and West. Here, Auden uses a metaphor to say that the deceased gave the narrator direction, guidance and purpose.

3) The third technique used is rhyme. An example of this is ‘wood’, ‘good’
3) The third technique used is rhyme. An example of this is ‘wood’, ‘good’ also we see rhyme again ‘dove’ and ‘gloves’. This creates a nice flow to the poem.

4) The fourth technique the poet uses is alliteration [repetition of consonant sounds at the start of nearby words] Note the frequent use of words beginning with ‘m’ between lines three and six to emphasise moaning and mourning. Note the ‘l’ in ‘love’ and ‘last’ in line twelve. Find more examples yourself, starting with the last line.

5) The fifth poetic technique used is onomatopoeia. ‘muffled’ onomatopoeia is when the word sounds like the sound it would make. This emphasises the word and helps the reader hear the sounds that would be present.
Thanks for watching:)