

English

# Language in 'The Birth-day'

## Lesson 11 of 12

Miss Baldry



# ‘The Birth-day’ review

The poem imagines the grand celebrations that take place on an unnamed countess’ birthday. As the \_\_\_\_\_ is paraded through the streets, the speaker describes the \_\_\_\_\_ that surrounds her. These images of celebration are \_\_\_\_\_ with images of inescapable \_\_\_\_\_ that also surround the countess. The poem ends by suggesting that these divides will not outlast \_\_\_\_\_: an inevitability regardless of \_\_\_\_\_ or social standing.

**contrasted/ countess/ class/ poverty/ luxury/ death**



*“Here, guarded by a motley train,  
The pampered Countess glares along;  
There, wrung by poverty and pain,  
Pale Misery mingles with the throng..”*

*“Here four tall lackeys slow precede  
A painted dame in rich array;  
There, the sad, shivering child of need  
Steals barefoot o’er the flinty way.”*

*“Room, room! stand back!” they loudly cry,  
The wretched poor are driven around;  
On every side they scattered fly,  
And shrink before the threatening sound.”*

