

# ASM TUITION ACADEMY

## **I wanna be yours**

I wanna be your vacuum cleaner  
Breathing in your dust  
I wanna be your Ford Cortina  
I will never rust  
If you like your coffee hot  
Let me be your coffee pot  
You call the shots  
I wanna be yours

I wanna be your raincoat  
For those frequent rainy days  
I wanna be your dreamboat  
When you want to sail away  
Let me be your teddy bear  
Take me with you anywhere  
I don't care  
I wanna be yours

I wanna be your electric meter  
I will not run out  
I wanna be the electric heater  
You'll get cold without  
I wanna be your setting lotion  
Hold your hair in deep devotion  
Deep as the deep Atlantic ocean  
That's how deep is my devotion

### **Summary of "I Wanna Be Yours"**

John Cooper Clarke's poem "**I Wanna Be Yours**" is a humorous, light-hearted declaration of love. The speaker expresses a desire to be everything for their partner, using a series of unconventional and mundane metaphors to show their devotion. Instead of grand romantic gestures, the speaker offers to be everyday objects like a vacuum cleaner, a coffee pot, and a raincoat. These images serve to highlight the practicality and constancy of the speaker's love. Clarke blends humour with sentimentality, suggesting that love can be found in the small, everyday details of life.

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## Poetic Devices and Techniques

### 1. **Metaphor:**

- Clarke's poem is built around a series of quirky metaphors. The speaker compares themselves to objects like a **vacuum cleaner**, a **coffee pot**, and a **raincoat**, all of which serve practical functions in everyday life. These metaphors symbolize the speaker's desire to serve and care for their partner in a useful, dependable way.
- The metaphorical line "let me be your vacuum cleaner, breathing in your dust" suggests that the speaker wants to take care of even the most unglamorous aspects of their partner's life.

### 2. **Repetition:**

- The phrase "**I wanna be yours**" is repeated multiple times throughout the poem, emphasizing the speaker's deep desire to be completely devoted to their partner. This repetition creates a rhythmic, almost musical quality to the poem, enhancing its flow.
- Repetition of everyday objects helps to build a sense of constancy and reliability, underscoring the speaker's wish to be ever-present in the life of their beloved.

### 3. **Humour and Irony:**

- The humour in Clarke's poem stems from the juxtaposition of the ordinary and the romantic. Comparing oneself to household objects is a humorous way of expressing love, which contrasts with the more typical poetic imagery of love (such as flowers or the stars).
- The use of mundane objects like a "vacuum cleaner" or "Ford Cortina" gives the poem a tone of irony, playing with the idea that love doesn't need to be expressed in lofty, grandiose terms.

### 4. **Tone:**

- The tone of the poem is **playful, quirky, and sincere**. The speaker uses simple language and everyday objects to convey deep feelings of love, blending humour with genuine affection. The casual, down-to-earth tone makes the poem feel accessible and heartfelt.
- While the tone is light-hearted, it also reflects the idea that love is about **everyday actions** and reliability, rather than grand gestures or idealized expressions.

### 5. **Alliteration:**

- Clarke uses **alliteration** in lines like "deep as the deep Atlantic ocean" and "I will never rust," creating a rhythmic flow to the poem. This gives the poem a sense of cohesion and musicality, reinforcing its song-like quality.
- Alliteration also adds emphasis to the key metaphors, drawing attention to the speaker's devotion.

### 6. **Rhyme:**

- The poem is written in **free verse** with moments of rhyme, which gives it a conversational and spontaneous feel. The occasional rhyming couplets, such as "let me be your coffee pot / you call the shots," contribute to the poem's playfulness and help to unify the list of metaphors.

### 7. **Simple Language:**

- The poem is characterized by **simple, everyday language**, which reflects the speaker's down-to-earth approach to love. By avoiding flowery or complex diction, Clarke emphasizes that love is about the little things and practical care, rather than romanticized ideals.
8. **Hyperbole:**
- The speaker exaggerates their desire to be everything to their partner, comparing themselves to multiple objects that fulfil various needs. This **hyperbolic** approach amplifies the speaker's sense of devotion and willingness to take on any role for their partner's happiness.
9. **Symbolism:**
- The objects the speaker compares themselves to — a **vacuum cleaner, raincoat, coffee pot** — symbolize qualities like reliability, protection, and comfort. By choosing everyday items, Clarke emphasizes that love can be found in the simple, practical aspects of life rather than in idealized or grandiose expressions.
  - The raincoat, for example, could symbolize the speaker's desire to **protect** their partner from life's difficulties, while the coffee pot suggests the idea of offering **comfort and warmth**.
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## Themes

1. **Devotion and Service:**
    - The speaker's devotion is expressed through their willingness to be useful and practical for their partner. Rather than offering grand gestures, the speaker emphasizes that love involves small, everyday acts of service and care.
    - Clarke presents love as a form of **service and utility**, where the speaker wants to make their partner's life easier by being a dependable presence.
  2. **Everyday Love:**
    - The poem celebrates the idea of **everyday love**, where affection is demonstrated through practical actions rather than lofty promises or romantic clichés. By focusing on household objects, Clarke highlights the importance of reliability and support in a relationship.
  3. **Unconventional Romance:**
    - Clarke challenges traditional, idealized notions of romance by using mundane metaphors instead of typical romantic symbols. This reflects a more modern, realistic view of love, where affection is expressed through the ordinary details of life.
  4. **Simplicity and Sincerity:**
    - The poem's use of simple language and imagery emphasizes the sincerity of the speaker's feelings. The lack of flowery language or elaborate metaphors suggests that true love is straightforward and honest.
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## **Conclusion**

John Cooper Clarke's "**I Wanna Be Yours**" is a humorous yet sincere expression of love. Through quirky metaphors and repetition, the speaker expresses their desire to be everything

their partner needs most practically and dependably. The poem's use of everyday objects and simple language underscores its down-to-earth tone, making it a celebration of **real, everyday love**. Clarke shows that love can be found not in grand gestures but in the small, meaningful ways we support and care for those we love.

## COMPARISON WITH,

### 1-SONNET 43

### 2-LOVE'S DOG

#### Themes

- **Idealized Love vs. Realistic Love**
  - **"Sonnet 43"** presents **love as idealized and eternal**. Browning's speaker counts the ways she loves her partner, focusing on spiritual, deep, and enduring aspects of love that transcend time and even death. The love in the poem is portrayed as limitless and pure.
  - **"I Wanna Be Yours"** offers a more **realistic, practical view of love**. Clarke's speaker uses quirky metaphors, comparing themselves to everyday objects like a vacuum cleaner and coffee pot, symbolizing their desire to serve and care for their partner in ordinary, reliable ways. Love here is less about grand, idealized emotions and more about everyday devotion.
  - **"Love's Dog"** explores love through a **dualistic lens**. Jen Hadfield contrasts what she loves and hates about love, illustrating the complexities of relationships. The poem captures both the joys and challenges of love, offering a nuanced perspective that acknowledges both the positive and negative aspects of romantic attachment.
- **Love as Spiritual vs. Love as Practical**
  - **Browning's "Sonnet 43"** emphasizes the **spiritual dimension of love**. Her speaker's love extends "to the depth and breadth and height" her soul can reach, indicating that her love transcends physical or material limitations and touches something divine.
  - In contrast, **Clarke's "I Wanna Be Yours"** portrays love as **practical and grounded** in everyday life. The speaker's love is demonstrated through mundane, functional acts rather than spiritual or emotional exaltation. Clarke suggests that love is about being there for the other person in a reliable, down-to-earth way.
  - **"Love's Dog"** mixes both the **practical and emotional** aspects of love. The speaker alternates between praising and criticizing love, presenting it as a force that can be both wonderful and frustrating. The poem acknowledges that love involves both emotional highs and the routine frustrations that come with relationships.

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#### Tone

- **Romantic and Reverent vs. Playful and Quirky**
    - **"Sonnet 43"** has a **reverent and passionate tone**, as Browning's speaker exalts love to the highest degree. The tone is one of deep admiration, and the repetition of "I love thee" throughout the poem gives it a serious, almost worshipful quality.
    - In contrast, **"I Wanna Be Yours"** has a **playful and quirky tone**. Clarke's speaker uses humor to express their love through unusual and unexpected comparisons to objects. The tone is light-hearted but still conveys genuine affection, focusing on the practical side of love with a sense of fun.
    - **"Love's Dog"** has a **bittersweet, ambivalent tone**. The speaker oscillates between positive and negative feelings about love, with a tone that reflects both love's allure and its frustrations. The tone captures the complexity of love, balancing affection with critique.
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## Structure and Form

- **Traditional Form vs. Free Verse**
    - **"Sonnet 43"** follows the traditional form of a **Petrarchan sonnet**, with 14 lines of iambic pentameter and a regular rhyme scheme (ABBA ABBA CDC DCD). The strict form and rhythm contribute to the poem's formal, serious tone and reflect the speaker's idealized view of love.
    - **"I Wanna Be Yours"** is written in **free verse**, with no fixed rhyme scheme or meter. The lack of structure mirrors the casual, conversational tone of the poem. The free verse format suits the poem's quirky and non-traditional approach to expressing love.
    - **"Love's Dog"** is also written in **free verse**, using short, repetitive lines. The repetition of contrasting statements about what the speaker loves and hates about love creates a rhythmic structure. The poem's form reflects the dualities present in love, and the free verse allows for flexibility in the speaker's shifting emotions.
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## Poetic Devices

### 1. Metaphor

- **"Sonnet 43"** uses abstract metaphors like "I love thee to the depth and breadth and height / My soul can reach," elevating love to something vast, infinite, and spiritual. The metaphors convey the speaker's boundless love.
- **"I Wanna Be Yours"** relies on **extended metaphors** of everyday objects to express love in a humorous, practical way. The speaker compares themselves to objects like a vacuum cleaner, a coffee pot, and a raincoat, symbolizing their desire to serve and protect their partner. This use of metaphor brings love into the realm of the ordinary and everyday.
- **"Love's Dog"** employs a series of **contrasting metaphors**, such as "What I love about love is its diagnosis / What I hate about love is its prognosis." These metaphors reflect the complexity and contradictions inherent in love,

with each line offering a different perspective on what love means to the speaker.

## 2. Repetition

- In "**Sonnet 43**", Browning uses **repetition** of the phrase "I love thee" to build an emotional intensity. The repeated declaration reinforces the speaker's passionate and sincere feelings.
- In "**I Wanna Be Yours**", **repetition** of the title phrase "I wanna be yours" creates a rhythmic, song-like quality. It emphasizes the speaker's desire to belong to their partner and serve them in any way possible.
- In "**Love's Dog**", **repetition** of the contrasting phrases "What I love about love" and "What I hate about love" sets up a pattern of opposites, highlighting the complexities and dualities of love. This device emphasizes how love can inspire both positive and negative emotions simultaneously.

## 3. Alliteration

- In "**I Wanna Be Yours**", Clarke uses **alliteration** in phrases like "deep as the deep Atlantic ocean," which gives the poem a lyrical and musical quality. This adds to the playful tone of the poem.
- "**Sonnet 43**" uses **softer alliteration** in lines like "I love thee to the level of every day's / Most quiet need," creating a flowing, calm rhythm that matches the seriousness and depth of the speaker's love.

## 4. Juxtaposition

- "**Love's Dog**" is driven by **juxtaposition**, contrasting what the speaker loves about love with what they hate. The juxtaposition of positive and negative feelings reflects the contradictions within relationships and the multifaceted nature of love.
- "**Sonnet 43**" and "**I Wanna Be Yours**" do not use juxtaposition to the same extent but offer contrasting views of love—idealized versus practical.

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## Perspective on Love

- **Love as Perfect vs. Love as Complex**
  - **Browning's "Sonnet 43"** presents love as **pure, selfless, and eternal**, elevating it to a nearly divine status. It is an idealized love that transcends time and earthly concerns.
  - **Clarke's "I Wanna Be Yours"** portrays love as **practical and service-oriented**, where the speaker focuses on what they can do for their partner in day-to-day life. The speaker's devotion is expressed in terms of reliability and utility.
  - **Hadfield's "Love's Dog"** presents love as **complex and contradictory**, showing that love can be both exhilarating and frustrating. The speaker accepts that love is not all good or all bad but a mixture of both.

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## Conclusion

When comparing "**I Wanna Be Yours**," "**Sonnet 43**," and "**Love's Dog**," we see three different approaches to the theme of love. **Browning** idealizes love, presenting it as a

spiritual and eternal force, while **Clarke** brings love into the practical, everyday world, showing how devotion can manifest in ordinary ways. **Hadfield** takes a more nuanced view, recognizing the dualities of love, where joy and frustration coexist. Each poem offers a distinct perspective on love, whether it's through lofty romanticism, down-to-earth affection, or a blend of positive and negative emotions.

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