

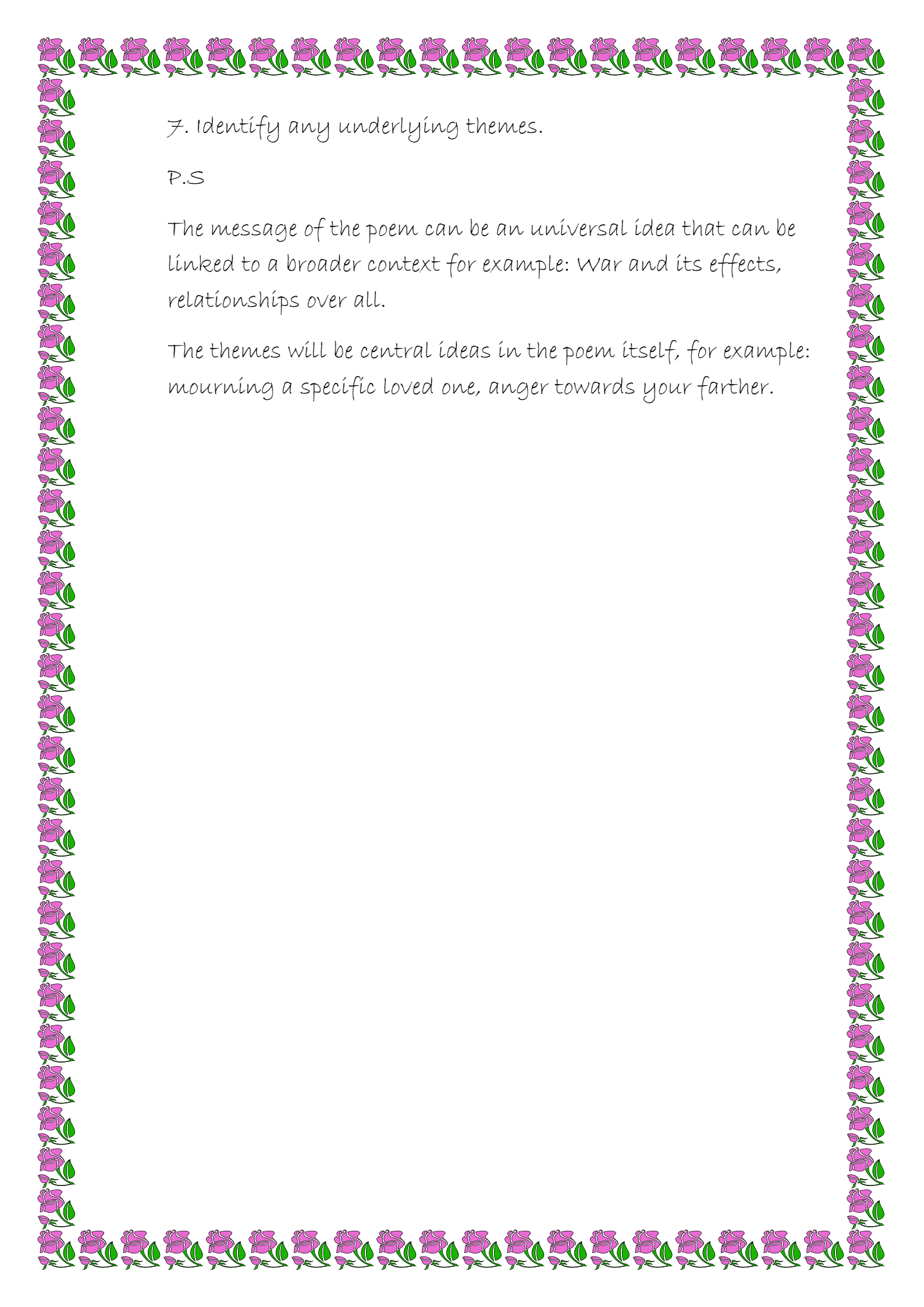


## NOTES:

### Exam Skills

#### How to analyse an unseen poem

- Approaching unseen poetry is like approaching a puzzle, you need to look at different angles and read it more than once to understand it. Then you need to unlock the puzzle by looking at different pieces.
  1. Read the poem all the way through once or twice without making any annotations (NOTES).
  2. Look at the title: is there anything significant about it? Is the title a literal or figurative one? What connotations and denotations are there to this title? Write them down.
  3. Once you feel like you understand what the entire poem is about, read it through stanza by stanza and underline/annotate any poetic techniques which you immediately recognise. For example, metaphors, similes, enjambment or alliteration.
  4. Structure: is there a specific shape to the poem? Is there a sestet and an octave. What is the rhyming pattern? Highlight and make annotations about these.
  5. Think about how these techniques (diction, tone, style) create an effect, such as the diction and the sound of the words or perhaps why exactly the poet has chosen to use particular words or images.
  6. Identify the message of the poem, what is the point the poet wants to make?



7. Identify any underlying themes.

P.S

The message of the poem can be an universal idea that can be linked to a broader context for example: War and its effects, relationships over all.

The themes will be central ideas in the poem itself, for example: mourning a specific loved one, anger towards your farther.