

1. The title of the poem refers to an object or gift but also to a relationship between mother and daughter. There are many underlying features considering the fan: it can suggest a woman, beauty, the past but it also can symbolize something romantic and erotic.
2. **POETIC SITUATION:** reflects on the last of a love life of a couple during pre-war Paris using a symbol, a 'Black Lace Fan'. Bolland disconcerts the reader by using the diction "it" twice.  
The first 'it' represents the lace and the second 'it' is used to substitute the climate of the setting. "It was stifling".
3. The poem is literally about the events that lead up to the narrator's mother receiving a fan from a man on a hot day.
4. There is a romantic quality to the poem stemming from the central object, the black lace fan, which was given as a gift from "him" to "her." This coupled with the city of Paris, cafe, french: boulevard des capucines, and line 28: "flirtatious" provide sensual, love related overtones.
5. **POETIC FACTS OF THE POEM:** There are seven quatrains through the course of the poem.
6. **Relationships/ characterization:** between speaker and man, fan and weather- Relates to perception of past
7. **Dark (neutral) diction (4) (& syntax, poetic structure)**
8. word choice and connotation:  
"pre-war" (line 3): connotation = nervous tension, but denotation = time before war  
"heat" (line 11): connotation = more tension, but denotation = hot temp  
"rain and lightning" (line 12): connotation = depression, sad, and emotional, but denotation = weather  
"wild roses" and "reticent clear patience" (lines 13, 15, 16): connotation = father and mother, but denotation = fan structure and detail
9. Descriptive adjectives related to darkness/black color that provides the reader with a sense of a dark environment, dark connotation may have been implemented to compliment the "black" lace fan. Line 4: "nights stormy." Line 14: "darkly." Line 19: "overcast." Line 22: "dusk." Line 25: "blackbird."
10. Used nature/element based diction to create a love story, 4, 11,12,13-16,19-20,22,25-28.
11. Weather diction. Sensory details. Show the power of there love and reinforces the idea of changing climates between individuals.
12. Tone, in lines 3-4 the diction immediately creates a restless, anxious tone that perpetuates the anxious presence of time within the poem. (or sense of foreboding)
13. In the third and fourth stanzas, Bolland wrote short sentences almost like a film.
14. use of pronouns (first stanza): makes the beginning of the poem vague, it is ambiguous meaning that it may have more than one interpretation
15. Ambiguity from author (references "it" at least 8 times but never reveals what it is)
16. anaphoras are apparent within the poem, for example within the first two lines of the second stanza it states "They" in the beginning of the first two lines and the third stanza states "She" in the beginning of the first two lines to create a rushed tension.
17. Caesura line 11 serves to emphasize all the setting intakes by the narrator.
18. Strong, direct diction (line 11 "heat was killing" , line 17 "worn-out" line 3 "It was stifling."
19. Short punctual sentences that puts emphasis on the action and moves the story along: "They wrapped the fan. He looked at his watch," "She stood up," "A man running"
20. From line 15 to 16 the fourth and fifth stanzas have enjambment to show the continuation of ideas and have the poem illustrate suspense.
21. Pathetic Fallacy- Line 11, 19-20,25-27
22. Used contrasting language in order to recreate the idea of "opposites attract" as well as creating suspense to see if their love will prevail 6-7, 10,22-24. wild roses,tortoise shell."perfect combination
23. time **imagery**, stanza 2, lines 6,7, and 8. OR Lateness, or the inability to regain lost time is frustrating to the speaker OR Shift from past to present tense between lines 12 & 13. Shows the co-mingling of time/ creates theme of passing of time; retelling of past through objects (fan)
24. pacing, using frequent mentions of time and how it is displayed: watch/ seasonal changes
25. Visual, olfactory, tactile and auditory imagery - "smelled of rain and lightning", "applied on silk by hand", "before thunder", "feels the heat" - creates a sensory experience for the reader
26. Visual Imagery, describes fan in 4&5th.stanza, darkly picked, stitched boldly, worn out, romantic natures alluded to fan initially, but then contrasts with description of how in its creation something was destroyed/violated.
27. Lines 25-26, Sexual Imagery: "blackbird", "Sultry morning", "flirtatious". Creates a sexual desire at the end of the poem. Tries to recreate the emotions her mother felt for her father at the time in the 1930s Paris. Represents love.
28. The heat or Use of Weather summer...rain and lightning...overcast...weather...sultry morning" (similes, metaphors, symbols) 12, 19-20
29. **Connotation:** the possibility that the "black lace fan" represents the gift and chaos of friendship. "the first he ever gave her", as well as the descriptions of constant changing weather that could reflect the up and downs of friendships/relationships but one that is strong and meaningful will see it through.
30. **Metaphors/symbols:** Simile: "the lace is overcast as if the weather it opened for and offset had entered it"
31. Symbolism: The Black Lace Fan resembled an action of love, but it was also a practical gift at the time because it was hot. This creates the theme that relationships can be difficult and need more than just love to survive.
32. The lace fan being personified and all the sensory details describing it. The lace overcast as if the weather it opened for... This shows that even though the fan was worn out it still has value and I guess power? Not sure what lines19-20 mean in the great scheme of things. I'm assuming it's just to show the power and strength of the gift.

33. The blackbird? = comparing the fan to the wing of the blackbird in the final stanza, something old and "overcast" with something "flirtatious" and surprising, the bird's wing and perhaps the lace when her mother opened the fan for the first time all the years ago. connects facts to feelings.
34. blackbird is an extended metaphor symbolizing the speaker's mother from the past. the blackbird "feels the heat" (line 27) and "the heat was killing" (line 11) in the café where the mother awaited a man
35. The "blackbird" (line 25) establishes the color of the fan that has been given. This is also supported by the title which gives an idea of the end result of the story being outlined. "Suddenly she puts out her wing" (line 27) this shows the the state in which the handheld fan is no longer collapsed and is now showing the true beauty in its pattern and all of its artesian glory.
36. The last sentence "suddenly she puts out her wing...." is a personification that is used to express the symbolism of the black lace fan.
37. Bolland's elaboration of her guess of what occurred in the past through means of symbolism portraying the black lace fan as a blackbird in stanza 7 is reinforced by her statement in stanza 3 that "The heat was killing." and further in 7 that "The blackbird... feels the heat."
38. Bolland connects Ireland with Paris to show how her mother giving her the fan was a symbol of love and continuity. Bolland is yearning for this same continuity between the fan, her parents, Ireland, and Paris. Bolland was unable to fully experience the emotions that her mother felt when she received the fan, but she senses a similarity in the Blackbird's wing. The 'full, flirtatious span of it.' is a description of the bird's wing but it could also be describing the moment when her mother first opened the fan.
39. "wild roses" (lines, 13, 15, 16): on the fan, possibly representing the father who may have been having an affair reticent clear patience- the bottom represents the mother who is very patient with the father  
"tortoiseshell" and "underwater bullion" (lines 15, 17): metaphors for the treasure that the fan is. the past is held within the fan
40. Tortoiseshell and the underwater bullion are metaphors for the treasure that the fan is Lines 15 and 17
41. negative connotations with "emptying", "killing", and "rain and lightning"
42. Personification: "The heat was killing" Tactile imagery
43. **CONTRAST/JUXTAPOSITIONS:** Effective descriptive and sensory details between past and present show gradual transition of emotion and its influence on the secondary details. The present is accompanied by a gloomier setting with gloomier emotion while the past is bright and vibrant which is accompanied by the feelings of love throughout the setting.
44. There is a lines in the poem that may be juxtaposition, because they are somewhat compared and are "opposites." Lines 15-16. It describes that tortoise shell has a "reticent clear patience," which seem like opposites. These lines can be used to say that the patterns of the fan were wild and mixed, but what the designs portray are clear. That seems like a decent interpretation.
45. Shift/ turning point from stanza 6 to 7 : & Switch from past to present. Happens between stanza 3 and 4. Represents the fan being passed on.
46. The act of giving (twice or multiple forms in the poem) as an expression of love
47. the past is a mystery--unknowable and unattainable--people make up stories of the past with what they think happened or wished happened--can we trust the speaker's account of the past in lines 1-12?
48. MYTH BUILDING AND THE LIMITATION OF THE NARRATIVE (lack of omnisciences): short sentences, choppy sentences to list facts and key details about the scene in paris, telling us only what she knows. she knows what happened but not the feelings involved. "she stood up" happened but doesn't tell us how she felt when she did
49. "The past is an empty café terrace. An airless dusk before thunder. A man running. And no way now to know what happened then – none at all – unless, of course, you improvise." Bolla nd was not part of this exchange, meaning that there is "no way to know," thus she must imagine or invent the scene. The "now" and "then" in line 23 are key. Bolland knows that the past is cannot change and there is no way to change it or re-live it if you were never part of it, therefore she must recreate the scene, the emotions, and feelings
50. The cafe is an extended metaphor for loss. In the beginning of the play, it harbors the poet's mother and her lover, whereas in the end it is empty and holds nothing to commemorate the mother and the man's past there. & This poem is an extended metaphor for the omnipresence of times' movement and loss.
51. **THESIS:** This poem depicts life in Paris before the war using the components and meaning of the black lace fan, along with different types of diction such as weather and strong diction, as well as visual imagery to describe the scene, and metaphors to describe how life has changed. These poetic structures help describe the situation and the way of life,
52. Eavan Bolland skillfully constructed a love story through the use of setting, contrasting language, nature and element based diction, and pathetic fallacy
53. Bolland utilizes imagery, metaphors, connotation, and shifts in time in order to relive a past experience and illustrate the complexity of relationships.
54. In Eavan Bolland's work "The Black Lace Fan my Mother Gave me", she masterfully uses a unique structure, intense symbolism, a unique narration style, and imagery to convey the emotions of her mother around the time the fan was given to her in Pre-war Paris.
55. Boland's choices in the structure of the poem and her word choice allows her to effectively describe the value of a fan that Boland's mother had given her and it's deeper meaning of mystery and secrecy of the past
56. In the poem, "The Black Lace Fan my Mother Gave me," the author, Eavan Bolland, utilizes strong, direct diction, strategic sentence structure, visual imagery, and metaphors to display the central theme of how memories and objects fade, and time always progresses.
57. In her 1990 poem "The Black Lace Fan My Mother Gave Me, Eavan Boland uses visual and olfactory imagery, syntax, allusions, symbolism, and tone to create the theme that relationships are difficult to maintain, especially over time, but also contain a unique type of love.
58. In her poem, "The Black Lace Fan my Mother Gave me," poet Eagan Bolland constructs a commentary on aging with frequent shifts between abstract memories of the relationship of a man and woman and the present condition of a tangible remnant of the past.