

## **VERSION 1**

OK well what have we got to discuss today? Its pretty obvious that the guy in this poem can't get over the fact that his baby who was premature died at one day old. Lets face it it would be awful for anyone. You really feel for this new dad because he tries to work out why his son died but can't find any answers. Lots of people die for no reason and this can be pretty sad. He asks alot of questions to the mother and God and sort of blames both of them in away. When he says, 'with one hand touched you' and 'wounds made with the Cross'. So James speaks a lot about losing someone special and how it really gets to people and makes them stay sad and grieving.

## **VERSION 2**

Loss is a universal human experience. It is clear that James McAuley explores the devastating effect of a premature baby's death on a bewildered father. The quotes 'with one hand to touch you' and 'wounds made with the Cross' seem to capture the father's inability to accept this untimely and innocent death and his need to assign blame. McAuley's use of enjambement which breaks the rhyme of this poignant sonnet mirrors the father's shattered emotions and the premature death of the baby. McAuley is able to evoke great pity, as the title implies, for the father in his time of loss

## **VERSION 3**

Loss is a universal human experience. James McAuley's "Pieta" explores the devastating effect of a premature baby's death on a bewildered father. His inability to accept this untimely and innocent death and his need to assign blame seem captured in his constant questioning of both the child's mother, who at least was able 'with one hand' to 'touch' the baby, and God, who has inflicted lasting 'wounds made with the Cross'. Both the father's shattered emotions and the premature death of the baby are mirrored in McAuley's use of enjambment which breaks the rhyme of this poignant sonnet. McAuley is able to evoke great pity, as the title implies, for this father in his time of loss.