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| Start simpleAnalyse/link quotes/effectsExplore an idea | The characters in Woman Work (WW) and Overheard in County Sligo (OCS) both have to do mundane, boring housework, such as “floor to mop”, “food to shop” (WW) and “polish the lustre and brass” (OCS). The simple, repetitive nature of the rhyme in WW shows how boring the tasks are, whereas in OCS she contrasts her dreams with a much more boring reality straight afterwards. Both women feel limited by domestic chores and their traditional gender role and they both dream of being taken away to an exciting new world (“blown away by a storm” WW) or being a performer on stage (“Abbey stage”, “still the crowd with a look”), which is ………. |

The poems you’ll need are below:

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| Woman Work by Maya AngelouI've got the children to tendThe clothes to mendThe floor to mopThe food to shopThen the chicken to fryThe baby to dryI got company to feedThe garden to weedI've got shirts to pressThe tots to dressThe can to be cutI gotta clean up this hutThen see about the sickAnd the cotton to pick.Shine on me, sunshineRain on me, rainFall softly, dewdropsAnd cool my brow again.Storm, blow me from hereWith your fiercest windLet me float across the sky'Til I can rest again.Fall gently, snowflakesCover me with whiteCold icy kisses andLet me rest tonight.Sun, rain, curving skyMountain, oceans, leaf and stoneStar shine, moon glowYou're all that I can call my own.  | **Overheard In County Sligo**I married a man from County Roscommonand I live in the back of beyondwith a field of cows and a yard of hensand six white geese on the pond.At my door’s a square of yellow corncaught up by its corners and shaken,and the road runs down through the open gateand freedom’s there for the taking.I had thought to work on the Abbey stageor have my name in a book,to see my thought on the printed page,or still the crowd with a look.But I turn to fold the breakfast clothand to polish the lustre and brass,to order and dust the tumbled roomsand find my face in the glass.I ought to feel I’m a happy womanfor I lie in the lap of the land,but I married the man from County Roscommonand I live at the back of beyond.**GILLIAN CLARKE** |