**‘Living in Sin’ by Adrienne Rich – Questions**

**\*There must be a quote and a personal response “I think/ I believe” etc in each answer**

**Thinking about Themes:**

1. Consider the phrase “jeered by minor demons”. In what sense might the young woman feel she has failed, that she deserves to be “jeered at”? Which emotion or emotions are suggested by this metaphor?
2. Would you agree that the young woman and her partner have an unequal relationship? Write a paragraph in response; support your answer with reference to the poem.
3. Would you characterise the lifestyle of the young woman and her partner as conservative or conventional, as regular or rebellious? Give a reason for your answer.

**Thinking about Language:**

1. Consider the phrases “writhe”, “less vocal” and “envoy”. In what sense might each one be described as an example of personification?
2. Describe in your own words the poem’s closing simile. Is it an effective comparison in your opinion? Give reasons for your answer.