The speaker in the poem, “Ebb”, is experiencing a recent heartbreak. Her partner’s love for her has died and she is comparing her heart to a “hollow ledge/Holding a little pool.” The pool or water is the love she has left for her past partner. However, the love is fading as the “pool/dries inward from the edge.” However, the poem does have an optimistic conclusion. Since the title of the poem is “ebb” meaning the tide has receded, the reader can infer that eventually the tide will come back in, filling her heart with new love. The poem communicates the theme of heartbreak and recovery. It shows how our emotions associated with love and loss, eventually get replaced, but it does take time. It makes sense because throughout our life people come and go. We lose loved ones to death or relocation but we move on just like the tides keep ebbing and flowing. The poem is effective because it shows the resignation and lack of control of the person involved and her tender understanding of her situation. Through the use of nature imagery, the reader is not dismayed but is hopeful because we know we can find new love after we have lost love.