

Sample H1C

SECTION A: UNSEEN POEM

You must answer Question 1 in the space below.

David Harmer is talking about past experiences at his uncle's farm and looking back to previous years. The reader knows this straight away from the words 'I remember'. This shows straight away that this is a memory for the narrator.

There are four stanzas in the poem, which get longer as the poem continues. The first stanza has seven lines, which then increases to nine lines by the end. This suggests that the memories are becoming more vivid for the narrator and he is remembering more as it goes on. This is one way Harmer presents his experiences at Cider Mill Farm.

These stanzas don't have a pause until the very last line of each stanza. Enjambment is used throughout, implying that Harmer is excited about sharing his memories and is talking quickly because of this excitement. It could also be presented in this way to make a clearer separation between each stanza, as they are each talking about something different. The full stop then the gap physically separates each of these to show the reader that they are different.

In the second stanza, Harmer tells us how he 'burrowed for gold'. This sounds childlike, implying that these experiences are from when Harmer was

Sample H1C

a child. 'Gold' is a very valuable metal and very precious. This shows that Harmer ~~saw~~ sees the farm as an important place for him and is a special memory he has. He seems to be very fond of his uncle which is why his uncle's farm was such an important place for him.

Onomatopoeia is used such as 'chugged' and 'clattered'. These words make the experiences seem more real for the reader as we can 'hear' the sounds from the farm and feel as if we are there. This is important for Harmer as he is sharing his memories of a place he was obviously fond of, and maybe it helps him feel as if he is back on the farm. The sounds give a real insight into what the farm was like and what you could hear there.

Personification is also used by Harmer, such as 'coughed into life'. The tractor being talked about sounds alive and more real for the reader. It could also show how Harmer wants to try and be on the farm again, making it seem real, due to him not going there anymore. Another example of personification is 'that sweated oil'. Again, the tractor cannot literally sweat. However, this shows that the tractor was used a lot and had to work hard. It obviously had an important job to do on the farm, which is why it could have 'sweated'.

Sample H1C

Harmer changes the tone slightly in the last stanza, as it sounds sad when he says ~~it's~~ 'He's gone now, he sold it'. This comma slows down the pace slightly, emphasising the sadness. Harmer is obviously disappointed that he can not enjoy these experiences anymore, and neither can his children. Although some things are the same, such as the 'barn still leaning over the straw', inside he knows that it is different since his uncle sold Cider Mill Farm.