

a) Phoman Hardi presents her thoughts and feelings about "My Mother's Kitchen" through many different language features and descriptive language. The title of the poem is direct and personal and gives you an idea of what the poem will be about. The kitchen belongs to the mother and so it is a possessive pronoun. The kitchen is <sup>also</sup> the main part of the home which shows a mother's status and position of responsibility. There is no rhyme scheme although the poem is written in iambic pentameter. Hardi's beautiful poem gives the reader an insight to what cultural life is like, and how many people had to move countries and across the town to find a home to live in.

The first opening sentence has a certainty and sense of fulfillment about it: "I will inherit my mother's kitchen" which is a metaphor for her status in society as a woman. This

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sentence greatly contrasts with the last as it says: "I will never inherit my mother's trees," which is a metaphor for the foundation of the original country the mother is from. Hardi then moves on to listing the things she owns, showing her mother is possessive: "rusty pots she can't bear throwing away," this endless list of possessions from her "ugly collection" shows that these are memories that she will forever keep with her, and the fact her daughter thinks <sup>they're</sup> ~~she's~~ ugly shows a misunderstanding of why she keeps them. Hardi then adds another personal touch by including direct speech: "soon all of this will be yours," indicating she's old and dying, and ready to pass down her possessive possessions.

The statement: "my mother is planning another escape" implies that not only has she tried to escape, that detail has gone into planning it. "My mother" is repeated many times in the poem for emphasis and recognition. "Home is her destination" this sentence shows that she is going back to where she belongs - to where she is destined to be. The "rebuilt house" indicates that there has been a civil war in

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her original country and she will go back there now it has ended, to furnish it, which "she is excited about." The next line uses assonance "standing from scratch," to allow the reader to understand the importance of starting fresh. "It is her ninth time," is monosyllabic which stands out to the reader. In the next stanza, repetition of "she never" is used in positive context to help the reader to insinuate that Hardi never feels regret for her past and is leaving behind only un-memorable things, and the fact she's moved homes so many times is useful in terms of forgetting things. As readers, we notice Hardi uses "homes," instead of houses, to indicate that her possessions have made the house valuable. She only feels regret for her vine in the front garden, this is because she the vines are something she's grown and are of use in terms of food - it's a treasure she can't take away with her. The poem ends and begins with what Hardi thinks about her mother's life, which leaves the middle to be a narration of her mother's story.

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b) i) "Sea Timeless Song" by Grace Nichols explores the permanent feel of the sea which contrasts greatly to Choman Hardi's "My Mother's Kitchen" which explores someone constantly changing and moving homes, but by force not by will. Each poem has three stanzas although the lines in My Mother's Kitchen <sup>change</sup> ~~change~~ from ~~five~~ seven to six lines to eight lines in each stanza and Sea Timeless Song remains a constant seven lines throughout the poem. Neither poems have a set rhyme scheme which is substituted by the main messages of each poem.

The main language feature in "Sea Timeless Song", is repetition, which not only emphasizes the meaning of the poem, it sets the pace and rhythm for the song. "Sea Timeless", is repeated four times in italics <sup>in</sup> for each stanza to point out that it is a song and has a theme to it. Ellipsis is also used just before the words "sea timeless" are mentioned. This contrasts with My Mother's Kitchen as it only repeats words once or twice and doesn't contain ellipsis, or any other language features except onomatopoeia. The words "sea timeless" are used as syllabance, which helps the rhythm even more. Another language feature used is enjambment which

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has the same effect. Apart from the language features, the main contrast is the message they are both trying to convey. Nicholas has constructed a poem that compares with Hardy's poem greatly, as his message is that even though most things and people "come and go", the scenery and sea will always remain there, whereas Hardy emphasizes on the point that people move constantly and adapt to their lifestyle, which in a way does agree with what Grace Nicholas says. In "My Mother's Kitchen" she's regretful that she leaves the scenery behind: "vine in her front garden," which is a good comparison to "sea timeless song".

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**TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 30 MARKS**  
**TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS**