

* Write larger!

* Get a better pen.

DATE: 17/3/15

Background material

By ~~describing~~ ^{describing his parents} ~~separated~~ yet always linking back to himself, Tony Harrison ~~expres~~ conveys his parents' importance in ~~his writing career~~ life and writing career.

Good ✓

The rhyme scheme and structure of this poem ~~expres~~ conveys his ~~feel~~ feelings on the love-hate relationships he has with his parents. The rhyme scheme is ABAB, and Harrison ends each line with one of two types of sound: a harder, more masculine sound, representing his father, and a softer more feminine sound, eg. 'her', 'blur', which represents his mother. By using this rhyme scheme, Harrison ~~conveys his thoughts about & expresses his~~ shows expresses that his love is split between ^{his} parents and that his attention is constantly switching between them. Harrison uses short sentences in the beginning and through the course of the poem, increases ^{their} length, e.g. (stanza 1) 'my writing desk', (stanza 2) 'Dad's now favourite pub, now gone for good', (stanza 3) 'in her, as though just cast from where I left it, a shadow holding something to its eyes.' By doing this, Harrison infers that he is talking to a counsellor of some sort, which ~~expres~~ conveys that he thinks that his parents separation has damaged him ~~in some~~ mentally. He also ~~uses~~ uses the same ~~terry~~ ways of describing his parents, which ~~emphasizes~~ ^{exp conveys} how he thinks of his parents as equals. Harrison ~~describes~~ ^{conveys} his parents' importance to ~~him~~ by using emotive words 'my writing desk... mom and dad'. By saying he has pictures on his writing desk, Harrison shows that he loves his parents enough to put ~~them~~ ^{at} their pictures on the place where he works, i.e. his writing desk. He

The ^{meaning of the} ~~importance of the~~ title 'Background material' in relation to this poem is ambiguous. The literal meaning is that he is looking at ~~what~~ the background of the ^{photographs} ~~photo~~ of his parents which is further supported by the line, 'I make out what's behind them from the ~~at~~ blur'. The figurative meaning is that he is ~~looking at~~ his parents for inspiration and for information, because ~~he is~~ his parents are an important part of understanding him. This is implied

by an allusion to 'the phrase 'background (further reading/information)' and that to understand ^{A him, somehow} ~~they would have to~~ understand his parents. Don't tell me - 'show' me!

Harrison uses ~~juxtaposed~~ juxtaposition and emotive words to convey his confusion about his family.

Harrison describes his parents as ~~neither --- both~~ 'neither one acouple and both bad'.

This implies that he thinks of his parents as both as separate beings, despite them being married for at least 40 years, 'their ruby wedding'. This is juxtaposed with the third stanza, though one of them... would make each shot', ~~to the effect that~~ which is alone because it makes him confused. ^{His confusion} This can also ~~has~~ is further shown further by ~~say~~ the line 'the two are joined'.

Good ✓

cont.

Harrison describes his father's ~~photo~~^{photograph} as 'a birthday' and 'Dad's in our favourite pub'. By using 'our' instead of 'his' or 'my', he expresses ~~it~~ implies he is close to his father. He then follows ~~that~~ ^{elements} he says 'now gone for good'. By juxtaposing ~~opposite~~ things with ~~one~~ negative things, he conveys his sadness and confusion. Harrison also does this with his mother: 'hers has my Welsh ~~cottage~~... though only the greenness of it's stayed the same.' ✓

Harrison brings himself into the story of what the photographs show by ~~only using~~ ^{short words that} relate to himself while describing the photos, using inclusive words and ~~describing~~ small descriptions of himself to ~~imply~~ indicating that either he is part of both his parents or that he has a small role in the ~~broke~~ broken up ^{are both} separated family. 'Dad's in our favorite pub', and 'but hers has my Welsh cottage', both ~~both~~ are examples of inclusive words that Harrison uses to bring ~~himself~~ himself into the story of what the photographs show. By the other way Harrison ~~does~~ does this is by describing himself in the reflections in ~~in~~ his parents' eyes in the photographs. 'in his, if you look close ... me in his blind right eye' ~~This~~ ^{is}, but in minute size! This can mean that he is either a small, almost invisible part of the family, or that even in a photograph of his father, he is still in it, implying that ~~he~~ is an important part in his parents' life. ✓

Harrison constantly ~~starts~~ ^{and starts} and ends the poem by linking ~~the~~ ^{or} ~~after being given back~~ his writing career to his parents, to show their importance in his life, and 'My writing desk. Two photos, mom and dad! This shows that he loves his parents enough to put them ^{at} the place where he works, despite all the ~~bad~~ & negative descriptions of them, both bad, etc. He ends the poem by describing his mother's photograph 'in hers -- where I write'. This ^{further expresses} ~~implies~~ ^{conveys} that his parents ~~have~~ ^{are} ~~large~~ ^{but} are important to him. By saying ~~using~~ his writing desk as