LEARNING THROUGH STORY: GROWING UP ABORIGINAL IN AUSTRALIA

Annotation: Vocabulary

**Away** by Tony Birch

Away

the warmed hollow

What is the effect of the repetition of the word ‘away’ in this poem? For example, could it reinforce a sense of loss? Could it help to create a specific tone? How does the author juxtapose the word with other words or phrases for effect? For example, ‘and the life you had --/away’.

of your childhood bed

How might the words ‘warmed hollow’ appeal to the reader’s senses? For example, inviting the reader to imagine a cosy, safe space.

the place where you

once laid and rested

is away

your young breath singing

rising through morning air

to fill the rooms of houses

and the life you had –

away

How does the author’s use of vocabulary create a specific sense of character or time? For example, the words ‘childhood’ and ‘*once* rested’.

fingerprints marking time

on a kitchen table

a bicycle wheel turning

its windmill in the yard

How does the author use imagery to appeal to the reader’s senses? For example, using **visual** imagery to invite the reader to imagine a child’s breath filling a house. Using **auditory** imagery which could allude to the vitality of the young subject or ask the reader to imagine singing more literally.

Is the phrase ‘fill the rooms of houses’ literal or metaphorical? For example, could it allude to the day-to-day act of living in houses or might it be symbolic of the energy and exuberance of a young child?

playful hands swept through

locks of hair to untangle –

away

and along the road

running away from us

where secrets are told

with darkest whispers

How does the author’s choice of vocabulary contribute to a specific sense of place? For example, a ‘red dirt track’ rather than a ‘dirt track’ or a ‘dusty track’.

I see your gentle feet

leaving their dance

in a red dirt track –

away

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