

Crossing the Red Sea

Purpose	Describes the journey from Naples of a migrant ship like the one Skrzynecki sailed on with his parents to Australia although the poem is not this specific. The poet makes strong metaphorical reference to the journey of the Israelites to the Promised Land, hence the significance of the Red Sea in both journeys. Also describes war shattered individuals who begin to open up to share their experiences. The journey has a cathartic effect and ends on a note of promise.		
Audience			
Situation			
Structural features of texts	Deconstruction	Supporting evidence – Find the quotes to support the deconstruction	Connections to other texts
5 sections Section 1 – verses 1 and 2 Section 2 – verse 3 Section 3 - verses 4, 5, 6 and 7 Section 4 – verse 8 Section 5 – verses 9,10 and 11	Section 1 – immediate context Section 2 – places the reader in an historical context Section 3 – beginnings of articulation Section 4 – impact of memory and time Section 5 – prospect of a new life		
11 verses	Verse 1 – describes migrants/refugees sleeping on the deck Verse 2 – beginnings of shared experiences Verse 3 – voyage represents the		

	<p>beginnings of a new life Verse 4 – voyage places people in a position to express their shared experiences Verse 5 – snatch of experience Verse 6 – snatch of experience Verse 7 – reference to Lazarus Verse 8 – connection between the night and the movement of the ship and time and memory Verse 9 – the next morning Verse 10 – one topic not addressed: death Verse 11 – Equator as a dividing line; big changes yet to come</p>		
<p>Movement throughout the poem away from port/Europe to the Equator</p>	<p>Journey away from the past and history to a new beginning. Equator represents a dividing line.</p>		

e-rudite.resources

Language features of texts	Analysis	Supporting evidence	Connections to other texts
Use of colour - red	Red: life, passion, blood, death and martyrdom White: light, purity, truth, resurrection		
Imagery	Section 1 Natural elements: landscape, caves, shorelines, mountains, rivers, storms Section 2 Metaphoric reference to the Israelites traveling to the Promised Land Section 4 The movement of the sea as a stimulus to dialogue		
Personification of time	The passing of time The effect of time The effect of the journey on time and memory		
Use of monologue	Lends authenticity Reinforces the idea of people beginning to talk Significance of the chosen snatches of dialogue?		
Reference to night and day	Section 4 – night and the slow revelations of memories Section 5 – day and the crossing of the Equator to a new life, a promised land?		
Biblical references	Section 2 - The Promised Land Section 3 - Lazarus Section 5 - Resurrection		