

Feliks Skryznecki

Purpose	Portrait Memorial Paean		
Audience			
Situation	A son reflecting on the father he deeply loves and respects. As a mature man he looks back on the father's strength and reflects on his lack of understanding as a child but has developed as a man. He also recognizes in maturity that his father understood the gap that existed between them because of their different life experiences as migrants and that the son would come to value his heritage in later years.		
Structural features of texts	Deconstruction	Supporting evidence	Connections to other texts
Six verses	Verse 1 Feliks and his garden; Peter's reflection	The garden reflects the man	
	Verse 2 Peter's reflection on Felik's	Son's admiration for his devotion	
	Verse 3 Felik's friends and their reminiscences and stoicism;	Felik's migrant context and the gap Peter feels with this past. Peter's respect	
	Verse 4 Felik's and language; discrimination	Felik's inability to communicate in his new language; insensitivity of the clerk; Peter's horror at the experience	
	Verse 5 Felik's contentment; Peter's admiration	Despite experiences in Poland and in Australia, Felix is content; Peter compares his own sense of contentment; garden as a measure of contentment	
	Verse 6 Felik's and Peter's different heritages - reflection	Return to language as representation of Peter's loss of	

		his Polish heritage and the inevitable growing distance between father and son	
Narrator: the son	Son remembers his father: looking back in time		
Two personas: father and son	Response to selected details about the father reveal the son's values		
Language features of texts	Deconstruction	Supporting evidence	Connections to other texts
Figurative language	Extended metaphor – the garden: the way Feliks tends his garden reflects his approach to life	Spent years walking its perimeter ... He swept its paths/Ten times around the world ...	
	Similes – make connections Garden and love; life Hands and his hard life; working man; man of the earth Feliks as both dumb (lack of English language as Peter's English grows) and a prophet (ability to foresee Peter's valuing of his heritage in later years) - paradox	Loved his garden like an only child... ... fingers with cracks/Like the sods he broke like a dumb prophet ...	
	Classical allusions In getting a grounding in Latin (a 'dead' language) at school, Peter loses his Polish language - irony Makes reference to the growing barrier between Peter and his father as a natural process of their different experiences	Caesar's <i>Gallic War</i> ... Hadrian's Wall	
Selection of details	Feliks, the man	My gentle father... ... I never once heard him complain Happy as I have never been	

	Feliks contentment	... back steps ... golden cypress ... geraniums ... his dog ... smoking ... watching	
Representation of the migrant experience	Ties to the past	His Polish friends Talking, they reminisced Remnants of a language/I inherited unknowingly I forgot my first Polish word ...	
	Discrimination	"Did your father ... learn English?" "I lost my first Polish word ..."	
	Stoicism	I never once heard/him complain ...	

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