

Migrant Hostel

Purpose	Reflection on life in a migrant hostel from a mature perspective. As with other poems there is reference to the natural world to reinforce ideas.		
Audience			
Situation			
Structural features of texts	Deconstruction	Supporting evidence	Connections to other texts
4 verses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New arrivals • Process of assimilating to the environment • Life at the hostel - timeless • Sense of exclusion from the new country 	<p>"the comings and goings"</p> <p>"Nationalities sought each other out .../Like a homing pigeon ..."</p> <p>"We lived like birds of passage ..."</p> <p>"A barrier .../Sealed off the highway ..."</p>	
Reflection	Use of past tense: looking back on a period of time in the past		
	Use of first person plural: "we" Experience was a collective one that the speaker represents		
	Moves into abstract reflection: the implications of the experience	"... of lives/That had only begun/Or were dying."	

Language features of texts	Analysis	Supporting evidence	Connections to other texts
Figurative language	Similes: comparison of migrants to birds emphasises their fragility and reliance on group instinct	"Like a homing pigeon" "We lived like birds of passage" "As it rose and fell like a finger"	
	Personification: Gives the barrier the power of a person and comparison with a finger is accusatory	"As it rose and fell like a finger"	
Reference to nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives the experience a natural quality and therefore timeless • Suggests fragility: beings up against the forces of nature • Emphasises the group nature of this experience: a flock 	See figurative language "Always sensing a change/In the weather" "Unaware of the season/Whose track we should follow"	
Mood	Numbers of people:	"comings and goings" "busloads" "nationalities" "we"	
	Powerlessness:	"Sudden departures...left us wondering/Who would be coming next." "Unaware of the season/whose track we should follow" "Needing its sanction/To pass in and out of lives ..."	

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