

English Literature – Week Beginning 15th June 2020

Hello,

This week you are going to look at the structure and form of 'Kamikaze' because you should include structure and form when analysing a poem for GCSE. There is an exam style question at the end.

Work can be completed electronically or handwritten. Then, it can be emailed to me via the email below. For the handwritten work, take a photo of the handwritten work and send it in this way.

Do not worry if do not understand all of the questions – do what you can.

If you have any questions about his work, or you would like to send the work, please email: amanda.dixon@grangepark.kent.sch.uk.

Mrs Dixon

Kamikaze

by Beatrice Garland

Her father embarked at sunrise
with a flask of water, a samurai sword
in the cockpit, a shaven head
full of powerful incantations
and enough fuel for a one-way
journey into history

but half way there, she thought,
recounting it later to her children,
he must have looked far down
at the little fishing boats
strung out like bunting
on a green-blue translucent sea

and beneath them, arcing in swathes
like a huge flag waved first one way
then the other in a figure of eight,
the dark shoals of fishes
flashing silver as their bellies
swivelled towards the sun

and remembered how he and
his brothers waiting on the shore
built cairns of pearl-grey pebbles
to see whose withstood longest
the turbulent inrush of breakers
bringing their father's boat safe

- yes, grandfather's boat - safe
to the shore, salt-sodden, awash
with cloud-marked mackerel,
black crabs, feathery prawns,
the loose silver of whitebait and once
a tuna, the dark prince, muscular, dangerous.

*And though he came back
my mother never spoke again
in his presence, nor did she meet his eyes
and the neighbours too, they treated him
as though he no longer existed,
only we children still chattered and laughed*

*till gradually we too learned
to be silent, to live as though
he had never returned, that this
was no longer the father we loved.
And sometimes, she said, he must have wondered
which had been the better way to die.*

Structure:

Look carefully at how the poet has structured the poem and answer the following questions:

1. Which structural features have been used throughout the poem?
Consider lines, stanzas, enjambment, regular/irregular structure and use of enjambment.

2. What is the effect of the inclusion of the daughter's speech?

3. The poem only includes three sentences and three full stops? What is the effect of this?

4. The final stanza is only three lines long. Why do you think this is?

FORM Third person - narrated by pilot's daughter - story to her children. Emphasises distance between pilot and daughter. First person - in later stanzas - speaks for herself = heightens sadness she feels.

Extension task:

Answer the following question:

How does Beatrice Garland present conflict in the poem 'Kamikaze?'

Remember to include:

- relevant context
- structure and form
- effect on the reader
- writer's purpose