

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Q: Write about the poem Midwinter and its effect on you (15)

The title of the poem Midwinter literally suggests that the poem will be about the middle of winter and how it differentiates from other seasons. Symbolically, it could mean the poem is going to be about a dark and depressing time full of emotion. It could also suggest how winter almost traps people within themselves.

Immediately, Davies portrays the darkness of winter as a time with 'no breezes' and 'no birds'. These imply that winter is full of melancholy and creates a dull atmosphere to start the poem. The repetition of 'no' highlights that winter brings along absence as everything is almost put on pause because of it. It restricts everyone as well as turning the 'world to grey'. The colour 'grey' has connotations of sadness emphasizing how the happiness in the world fades away during the season. The 'dead leaves cling' during this time which indicates that even nature is 'trusting for Spring'. This brings about a sense of desperation for both humans and nature as they long for Spring to come.

Moving on towards the middle of the poem, Davies portrays the 'bitter cold' as something that 'forms icy mist from anything you say'. The 'icy mist' makes me as a reader think that winter is painful but also a time of uncertainty. I get the impression that Davies is trying to get across that winter steals people's voices again emphasizing that they are trapped both physically and mentally within this time. We see that there's

'no difference between dawn and dusk and day' which highlights how winter is bleak all the time. The repetition of 'and' makes me think winter is almost like a never-ending cycle as every day is exactly the same. It reinforces how lengthy and prolonged the days feel because you never see that light and experience happiness.

The poem is written in a regular rhyme scheme throughout which indicates that there's no escape from this season. This structure and the fact that there's a balance 'between increase and decay' implies that everything stays the same so winter brings no change and no excitement. Perhaps Davies does this to emphasise how useless and boring this season is. This makes me as a reader imagine winter to be a time of loss and almost a waste of time for everyone. The last line of the poem 'the earth in winter is trusting for the spring' is used as an extra line making the last stanza different to the others. This extra line could indicate that Spring is finally creeping up and people are near to receiving the happiness they've longed for.

In conclusion, Davies explores the challenges and difficulties winter brings for both humans and nature. Perhaps he does this to make readers understand the pain and grief winter can bring. In my opinion, he does this successfully through the melancholic tone of the whole poem which I formed a strong opinion against <sup>winter</sup> nature through.

Great!

13/15.