

"hollows"  
same / dull  
monotonous

noons

Afternoons

AFTERNOONS  
Stanza 1

end of summer  
mother takes  
children to

"free" - freedom of  
the playground  
represents the  
freedom they will  
eventually seek  
from parents

Contrasts new  
and old. The old  
rec ground has  
been replaced by  
something new  
The leaves fall in ones and twos → change is irreg  
From trees bordering  
The new recreation ground. 'new' should be  
In the hollows of afternoons optimistic but there is a  
Young mothers assemble or emptiness and lon  
At swing and sandpit  
Setting free their children. keeps on going the same  
mothers are - plural

Alliteration  
Helps to  
imagine

men and women are  
set apart in different  
stanzas  
Behind them, at intervals, anonymous - repetitive

"skilled"  
but have to  
provide  
- responsibility

Domesticity  
women have  
endless house  
hold jobs  
monotonous  
like

Stand husbands in skilled trades,  
An estateful of washing, men do trapped  
And the albums, lettered men have not gather their  
Our Wedding, lying they go out to work daily  
Near the television: wedding album (between  
Before them, the wind is discarded and forgotten them  
Is ruining their courting-places is marriage  
negative not valued?

working class jobs  
At there is House  
work  
Dating place are  
now old.

Decay  
and destruction

That are still courting-places  
(But the lovers are all in school),  
And their children, so intent on  
lovers are  
Romance  
Forgotten?

mothers  
responsibility  
- no freedom

Finding more unripe acorns,  
Expect to be taken home,  
Their beauty has thickened,  
Something is pushing them  
To the side of their own lives.  
"not ready?"  
not ready for  
love

"album"  
no time for  
each other

not allowed  
to change  
role in  
life

trapped  
getting old  
(mothers)  
Hope for  
negative like  
Society who say  
women should  
remain young  
lifestyle.  
marriage and key  
working class life  
time passing  
decay/decline  
cyclical nature  
life

PHILIP LARKIN  
1922-1985

Context

- lived in England
- from Hull
- many aware  
interested in fame.
- Librarian, never married
- His poems were often  
like.
- critics label him negative
- 2008 chosen as Britain's  
previous 50 years

Stanza 1  
mothers taking  
children to  
playground

Stanza 2

the home lives

Stanza 3

wishing to be  
taken home

lived abroad.  
about every day

able but in  
poet of the