

Structure - Enjambment - makes it seem like the beauty of the flax-dam is endless, makes the poem seem more conversational and like a narrative.
 X2 stanzas - signifies a change, shows duality of nature.
 Blank verse - unrhymed iambic pentameter to show the process of aging is not easy / flowing process
 DEATH OF A NATURALIST ■ Stanza 1 = long - shows the importance of childhood and how long he was naive for.

A common theme for Heaney - links to loss of innocence

Death of a Naturalist

Death of someone who is fascinated by nature - contextually Heaney grew up in a farm - could be autobiographical. something resting over a long period of time becoming worse

Shows the importance of flax to Ireland. The main part. Mood has duality there is something unsettling

Links to the speaker's mind has young so his words are a little immature

as nature isn't perfect

It is not about a normal poetic subject.

Extreme heat sweating childlike innocence, naive.

He's so fascinated with nature that he tries to turn his home into a natural spot

The reader knows he can't

Alliteration - has removed nature and placed it in a man made environment

Hasn't he invaded the flax-dam

Time connective which signifies time passing and a change

A change in mood shows he has a more realistic view of nature

More realistic, more mature, more educated.

Grotesque imagery He sees the reality

Comedic long because Heaney can now laugh at this and it makes it entertaining for the reader

Puberty - frogs are a metaphor for puberty

All year the flax-dam festered in the heart

Of the townland; green and heavy headed

Flax had rotted there, weighted down by huge sods

Daily it sweltered in the punishing sun.

Bubbles gurgled delicately, bluebottles

Wove a strong gauze of sound around the smell.

There were dragon-flies, spotted butterflies

But best of all was the warm thick slobber

I would fill jampotfuls of the jellied

Specks to range on window-sills at home,

On shelves at school, and wait and watch until

The fattening dots burst into nimble-

Swimming tadpoles. Miss Walls would tell us how

The daddy frog was called a bullfrog

And how he croaked and how the mammy frog

Laid hundreds of little eggs and this was

Frogspawn. You could tell the weather by frogs too

For they were yellow in the sun and brown

In rain.

Then one hot day when fields were rank

With couding in the grass and angry frogs

Invaded the flax-dam; I ducked through hedges

To a coarse croaking that I had not heard

Before. The air was thick with a bass chorus.

Right down the dam gross-bellied frogs were cocked

On sods; their loose necks pulsed like sails.

Some hopped:

The slap and plop were obscene threats.

Some sat

Poised like mud grenades, their blunt heads farting.

I sickened, turned, and ran. The great slime kings

Were gathered there for vengeance and I knew

That if I dipped my hand the spawn would clutch it.

Aliteration - traditional Irish poetry

showing that normal perceptions will change

oxygen - nature as a threat - oxygen - shows his fascination with the grotesful side of nature.

Link to the theme of nature

cycle of life - birth time passing - change foreshadowing

Frogspawn - unpleasant imagery but it attracts the speaker - contrasts later depictions. childlike innocence.

Her name = barrier to learning

Meaney - critical of education because it didn't prepare the speaker

Humanising - humanise to the expense of education

change from 'punishing sun'

Negative oppressive

Voiced

lost of innocence a plant - rats in a dam to create fabric they haven't invaded he has

irony

unnatural and threatening

semantic field of violence/militaristic language

make the frogs sound like an army/ enemy intimidating/ force

Highlights his repulse, triple - highlights his repulsed fear of them.

change in language from 'frogspawn' to 'spawn' (negative).

He faces puberty but is embarrassed/sickened

Feels betrayed by nature

SEAMUS HEANEY

Context - 4 year old Brother died in a car accident when Heaney was young which affected him and many of his poems are about loss of innocence - Used alot of religious imagery
 - Heaney grew up in a farm and many of his poems reflected upon his upbringing.
 - Often known as 'farmer poet' since many of his earliest are based on and around farm (neighbourhood where he had raised)
 - Heaney's earliest poetry collections - Death of a Naturalist (1966) and Door into the Dark (1969) evoke "a hard, mainly rural life with rare exactness" according to critic Michael Wood.

14 "Death of a Naturalist" is specifically rooted in Irish rural life, describing the Irish countryside in vivid detail-down to the way it smells.
 "It also revives two traditional ways of writing that have been important to Irish poetry; the use of blank verse and the use of heavy alliterations.

Bd - A fo
 Ad - Born
 Cd - in
 Id - By t
 Hd - child
 Id - He
 Hd - so
 Hd - natur
 Hd - word
 Hd - conn
 Hd - conn
 Hd - an
 Hd - M's
 Hd - fro
 Hd - W
 Hd - abo
 Hd - inte
 Hd - The
 Hd - into
 Hd - he
 Hd - He
 Hd - an
 Hd - Th
 Hd - Wis
 Hd - f
 Hd - U
 Hd - b
 Hd - br