

LUCOZADE

Imagery

BED

Imagery

KEEPING ORCHIDS

Imagery

"sad chrysanthemums" - personification - conveys the daughter's emotions and serves as a reminder that the flowers and stereotypical trappings of illness upset the mother.

"Orange nostalgia" - metaphor - Lucozade reminds her of her youth and being given the drink when ill - serves as another reminder of her illness now.

"a swarm of eyes" - metaphor - compares doctors to a group of insects/pests - she feels objectified and gawped at.

"grapes have no imagination" - personification - criticism of visitors/father who bring such stereotypical markers of illness.

"dandelion hours" - metaphor - sense of lightness but also of fragility - little time remaining - easily blown away.

"wey ma great tent o'nappy" - metaphor - exaggerates the size to suggest how ridiculous the situation is. Also shows she can't control her body anymore.

"the blethers ha been plucked lot o' us" - metaphor - small talk/intimacy has gone - "plucked" suggests violence/harshness - communication has gone forever.

"An am here like some skinny chicken" - simile - compared to a naked chicken - vulnerability, ugly, unnatural, being prepared for the end.

"time is whit A' haul between the soft bits o' ma thumbs" - metaphor - imagines she can hold time - it's thin and will soon slip away.

"glaring selfish moon" - personification - makes us think of the daughter and others who don't see her enough.

"light up this drab wee prison" - metaphor - speaker feels she is trapped and will stay there until she dies.

"some of the buds remain closed a secrets" - simile - buds compared to secrets - mystery, impenetrable, connects flowers to the mother and her determination to hide her past.

"I carried them back, like a baby in a shawl." - simile - she is protective of them - links back to the past when Kay was a baby in need of protection that the mother couldn't provide.

"upset orchids" - personification - it's not the orchids that are upset, it's Kay.

"The skin shut like an eye in the dark" - simile - reflects how secretive the mother is - "dark" suggests how lost Kay feels.

"Time is outside waiting." - personification - this meeting has had little effect on her life outside - she knows it must come to an end.

DIVORCE

Imagery

**MY GRANDMOTHER'S
HOUSES**

Imagery

GAP YEAR

Imagery

"your breath smells like a camel's and gives me the hump" - pun to emphasise the humour in her anger towards her parents.

"hopping mad" - metaphor - shows the grandmother's energy and how angry she is about the letter telling her to move house.

"a shiny new pin" - metaphor - new high rise compared to a pin - negative connotations - reflects grandmother's animosity towards a new flat.

"The sideboard solid as a coffin." - simile - suggests this is where the grandmother has pictured herself staying until her life ends.

"a bit of hoch floating inside like a fish." - simile - shows us her childlike imagination and sense of wonder with the soup.

"a flock of women" - metaphor - talking about their community but also a link to the good shepherd.

"flapping over me like missionaries" - simile - comparison to saving the souls of the heathen.

"rooms lead off like an octopus's arms" - simile - house being compared to an octopus - suggests alien nature and sheer size of the house.

"a one-winged creature" - metaphor - conveys girl's feelings of wonder on first seeing the object - the piano is mythical/exotic to her.

"I see her like the Hunchback of Notre Dame" - simile - image of her bent over and hunched - also the comparison of the high rise and the bell tower - suggests she is someone who lives outside society.

"ambulances screaming" - personification - change in atmosphere - loud, chaotic unlike the silent cemetery - shows the urgency of modern living. Ambulances also anticipate her death.

"mound of my tight tub of a stomach" - metaphor - image of a container - by end of poem it's clear Matthew can't be contained. Snugginess of child held safely in womb.

"my close stranger" - oxymoron - physically close but unknown - opposite at the end of the poem - mother/son bond is close but he's a stranger physically through distance.

"My heart soars like a birds" - simile - image of pride and joy - compares her elation to birds ascending.

"My love glows like the sunrise over the lost city" - simile - reinforces idea if Matthew as light - Kay is imagining herself present with Matthew in the form of her love - she's become bound to the landscape he travels though.