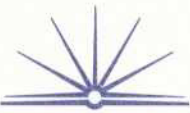


"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow we aren't really living". According to Gail Sheehy, change is an essential part of living. This epitomises the very nature of self change. Change; growing up; the accumulation of experience; the passing of time, is inevitable. It cannot be avoided. All changes have consequences, "as stones thrown into ponds make ripples". But it is how one responds to such change, & its consequences, which determines its effect, either positive or negative, on our lives. This is illustrated in the poetry of Gwen Harwood, especially the poems "Barn Owl", & "Nightfall", & in the stimulus booklet, namely Hannah Roberts "Sky High". Michell Dransfield's "After a Birthday" & Tiffany Knights "Monday, Bloody Monday,"^{as they} are all didactic examples of change resulting in consequences.

Gwen Harwood's "Father & Child" poem is divided between two individual poems, "Barn Owl" & "Nightfall". "Barn Owl" concerns a young child, a "wisp-haired judge" who's experiences force upon her a life's lesson.

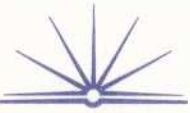


The child, believing s/he had the power, & the right, embarks upon the barn owl with a gun, with the intention of killing it. But the child's misconception of death as quick & painless is shattered, as the owl refuses death, "wrecked thing ... Lobbed in its own blood." The poem follows a strict metre (6 syllables) & rhyme method. But as "my first shot struck", the rhythm is destroyed, as shot is abrupt as the gunshot itself. The alliteration of the phrase "a bundle of stuff that dropped & dribbled" illustrates the callousness & brutality of the deed. The child's actions had serious ramifications, & the consequences of the event resulted in the loss of childish innocence.

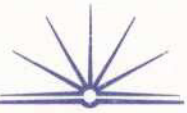
The phrase "I wept ... for what I had begun" is laced with a metaphorical meaning. Not only did the child weep for the killing of the owl, but also for the loss of innocence, & the journey into adulthood that was now embarked upon.

The poem is written from an adult perspective, as illustrated by eg's such as "horny pond". It is experienced as a child, but understood as an adult.

[Harwood, "Nightfall" also reflects an understanding



of the consequences of change. The title of the poem itself is ambiguous, literally meaning the end of day, but metaphorically referring to the end of the father's life. The poem refers to the same child & father as in *Bamowl*, but the time period has advanced 40 years. Harwood uses contrast to illustrate the change, as once the father guided the child to see & understand the world, but now the child guides the blind father as he approaches the end of his life, ^{as in the metaphorical,} "Old king, your marvellous journey's done". The poem uses the technique of enjambment, & thus flows, like the stream of consciousness of one's mind. This poem illustrates that life is transient, & that the natural progression of change has consequences. "Now the season that seemed incredible is come." Visual imagery is created through the use of such similes as "You speak, as though air touched a string near breaking point." The consequences of change are evidence, as the



father, once a "no sayer" is now considered "a stick-kin comforter", & a child "once quick to mischief", has "grown to learn sorrow".

The Area of Study Stimulus Booklet also reflects change, especially Hannah Roberts "Sky Higl!"

This ~~poem~~ short-story deals with the natural transition from child to adult, & the consequences associated with such change. ^{It succeeds in} ~~a~~ creates interest by

combining an important topic, change, with a seemingly ambivalent focus, i.e. the washing line.

Sky Higl concerns the childhood imagination, & freedom of youth, with the responsibility of adulthood, by giving the clothesline a metaphorical meaning. Not only does it represent childhood,

as an object of childish imagination, but also the responsibilities of growing up. "Once a curious

onlooker, I now write my own semaphore secrets in colourful t-shirts & mismatched socks."

The story focus on the clothes line, ~~is~~ metaphorically the "best climbing tree in the backyard".

In the childhood imagination it is personified, with "silver skeletal arms," & the bushes "surrounding the patchy lawn like spectators". This simile, combined with the imaginary "I am Flying" illustrates how the child's imagination works. But this is severely contrasted with "Today however, it is bare", & "aged-warped", bringing the reader back to reality. The first lay of the story is written in reflection, in order to create a ~~fluid~~ mood of change & its consequences, once it is compared with 'today'. The natural change from child to adult brings with it consequences. "It is unlikely the wasking line could support me this time", despite "a pilot light, burning somewhere inside". The responsibility of adulthood is evident, & thus so is the consequences of change "as there are too many things tying me to the ground."

Tiffany Knights "Monday Bloody Monday" appeared in the SMH on May 7, 1990. It concerns the

"imaginary line between child & adult" & the change one undergoes as a student ~~starting~~ studying for the HSC. "The true aim of the HSC... to break my spirit & force me to join the ranks of the faceless individuals we always scorned... To grow up". This feature article approaches its serious subject matter with humour, & its nostalgic feel, "The good ol' days", combined with the allusion to a childhood character "Peter Pan" demonstrates to the responder that the author views change as negative, as its consequences result in "Oh God. Am I really growing up?" ^{The rhetorical question serves to challenge the reader.} The change in this case is the transition to adulthood, & the consequence is the loss of childhood.

Michael Dransfield's "After a birthday" also alludes to a childhood character, in "all the king's horses", in an effort to portray the change undergone in the

natural transition of growing up. ~~The~~ In this poem, the subject is approached in a ^{constantly} seriously ~~way~~, ^{tone} uses enjambment, without punctuation to illustrate that often the transition occurs without one life altering moment. "I drew a line through yesterday, on one land now, on the other childhood. The line was not quite straight, wavering partly because one's ~~land~~ land trembles at such a coming off of innocence." The metaphorical use of earth to represent life, ~~is~~ creates a vivid visual image. "Planted hedges, bordering against neighbours ~~is~~ nature, not seeing that beneath it is one earth." The poem uses simple colloquial language, broken sometimes by sophisticated verbs such as "demarkate". "I doubted one could demarcate so easily; good from bad; past from present; I from me"

"As stones thrown into ponds make ripples... all changes have consequences." The didactic nature of the five texts outlined above illustrates that it is how one responds to such change which determines ~~the magnitude~~ ~~the magnitude of the impact~~, i.e. whether the impact on one's life is positive or negative, that is, the size of the ripple in the pond.