



Gwen Harwood uses universal themes and values in her poems The Glass Jar and 'At Manington'. Both poems explore the anxiety and fear that humans encounter, as they undergo various stages of their lives. The use of ~~the~~ her universal themes and values allows her poems to transcend time, and remain valid for all audiences, regardless of their context, captivating her readers.

Gwen Harwood uses The Glass Jar to explain & arguably, the most formative periods of a child's life - the process of maturation and the progression from childhood to adulthood. The sustained use of Christian imagery in her poem is an indication of the child's loneliness and resort to spirituality ~~as~~ for support and comfort.



The child's high hopes for the 'revelation',
a misunderstanding of 'god', can be
seen in the first stanza as he attempts to
capture the sun's light. Harwood's allusion
to Christianity and religion as adventures, ~~to~~
~~desires~~ not only describes his ^(oathless) ~~oathless~~
and fragment understanding of religion, it
also shows his desperation in seeking
spirituality and faith to overcome ~~his~~
the demons which haunt his sleep. The
unfledged view of the glass jar being
able to 'bless, exercise and light with
total power' is further evidence to support
this.

~~The dark imagery presented by the poet
contrasts beauty to the light imagery~~

~~poet~~
The dark imagery presented by the
poet in the third stanza ^{is a stark} ~~contrasts~~



contrast to the ~~previous~~ light imagery of the previous stanzas, and aims to remind the audience of the insecurities they felt during their childhood. The audience is also provoked to feel for the child, and reminisce on their own childhood fears as the poet describes the devil-like nature of the child's fears - ~~the~~ the 'fierce' and 'vampire fangs' of an ~~invisible~~ vicious, yet intangible fears. The synecdoche used to describe the ~~devil-like~~ ^{devil-like} nature of his fears contributes one again to his spirituality, and it's failure to help him in time of need. The series of personal pronouns - 'his fear', 'his', 'most secret hate', 'pierced him' - ~~places~~ emphasizes on the need to fight his own battles, and the isolation that he feels as he sleeps. e



The insecurities of a child can be seen in the line 'hope fell headlong from its eagle height', as he disappointingly discovers that the sunlight, ~~was~~ his 'god', is unable to help him.

The child experiences further ~~the~~ insecurity as he discovers his 'comforter' ^{mother} having sexual intercourse with his 'rival' father. The ~~demonstration~~ of his father's sight of such an act caused anguish in the child, and forces him to confront his fears, where 'worse dreams' came about. The demonstration of his father as the tormentor is an indication of their challenging relationship with ~~the~~ his mother. As he faces his fears - ~~it~~ without his mother nor god to help him, he gains a sense of self and knowledge, waking up



The validity of the issues raised by Harwood in the Glass Jar ~~allows~~ regarding a child's belief in spirituality and god to help them overcome their fears captivates her readers due to the ability of the reader to respond, and make links to the child.

The emotions of insecurity and fear are also explored in ~~the~~ Gwen Harwood's At Mornington, as ~~she~~ the poet explains the need for self-evaluation as time progresses.

The recurring motif of water throughout the poem represents regeneration and renewal of life. As she stands with her friend 'among avenues of the dead', she is seemingly shocked by the closeness of death ~~to~~ for her own life. It is only when she realises the inevitable passage

of time and the coming of death that she begins a self evaluation, realising the preciousness of ~~her~~ ^{her} life, her friends and families. The short time ~~left~~ ^{she has} remaining with her friends initiates a feeling of insecurity as she considers her life's worth.

The ~~poet~~ poet uses pumpkins as a metaphor for her life, and all that she has accomplished, for fear she has underachieved. The pumpkin vein is used to symbolise her perspective of her own life - sucking as much of her life as she can, ~~and~~ much like the pumpkins from the soil. Furthermore, she describes the pumpkins as 'every degree of nature', again of her ability to live life despite cold talks.



The Abba: biblical allusion 'a pebble
to myself' is again, justification for
her ~~actions~~ achievements in her life.

The fear of underachieving in her life
is clearly seen in At mornington, as
she begins justification for her actions.