



Lucretia Harwood composed a number of poems in the earlier half of the 20th century. Addressing a number of different issues the poems were only successful much later than their publication due to their increasing relevance despite the change in social context. Harwood addresses many major issues such as the transience of time the loss of innocence as well as the changing constructs of the society that the poems are read from. In doing so Harwood reveals intense emotions often contrasting in her learning process. Both "Father and child" and "The violets" reveal ~~emot~~ mixed emotions especially joy and ~~sada~~ realization at life's intricacies. It is this representation of familiar intense human emotion that captivates readers as it allows for links across the ^{time and} cultural ~~and~~ gap from the time of publication to the time of analysis.

"Father and child" is an intense poem with many different understandings from many different perspectives. The description of a young child of ambiguous gender in the early years of life recounting a shocking news



realisation of life and death is contrasted with the second movement "Nightfall" a later memory of a time of adulthood where the same learning process, likened to the aging process, is still taking place. "Barn Owl" the first movement in the poem describes the young child breaking free of authoritative ~~and~~ structure in the form of the father. The "Old Nay-Say" is "Robbed of his Power by Sleep" the early stanza's in the poem describe intense emotions such as the thrilling excitement of escaping the rules ~~and~~ ~~set~~ of an institution. The later stanzas contrast this with the overwhelming feelings of sadness and remorse as the owl -- "Happ'd helplessly" ... "wallowing in its own blood." The realisation of the child that death is not what it seemed at first is a vital theme within Havenswood's poetry and is described masterfully by the strong emotions conveyed by word choice and the inclusion of a first person narrator. The sensory imagery describing the sound of the owl "swooping home" the use of onomatopoeia in this line drawing the responder in. And the light making the child "our blood" appealing to the senses adds the description of the intense inner emotions which make the poetry so readily acceptable.

"Nightfall" is the end of a story or recount beginning



with "Barn Owl". The use of contrasting ~~words~~ ~~words~~, such as the words describing morning, light, sun ~~are~~ with the words in "Nightfall" describing night such as "dusk" colours are also contrasted yellow symbolising new beginnings is contrasted with orange and red like sunset signifying the end of life. This contrast carries the sadness which the poem is so saturated by. The ~~are~~ similarities with earlier times, reunited with one's father, once a dictator, now dependent. The poem explores family conventions at the time with sadness at the short nature of life the all too obvious coming of a close like sunset conveys Harwood's melancholy message her sadness grips the responder likening her situation to that of the reader, such intense emotion captivates readers by immersing them within the story.

"The Violets" A poem similar in nature and form to "Father and Child" as it also narrates the life of a child of ambiguous gender in first person. Also exploring the power structures within a family as a child exerts power over her father as she "chastises him with ~~her~~ fears". The presentation of the mother as a "comforter" and father as breadwinner as



he "comes from work", a traditional view of the Fine is contrasted with the father's care when collecting or gathering flowers. The persona of the poem is again presented with a new and fresh idea of life, the transience of time. "...loving, where has morning gone?" The child is distraught as this unseen force has "stolen ~~the~~ morning away" Marwood is reflecting once again upon the dichotomy of human experience. Time passes and one can never go back or re-live experiences despite the ability to dwell upon the past nostalgically or with remorse. Again Marwood's sadness and confusion is conveyed through the writing form ideas carry from one stanza to the next with no particular direction or form. The recount of a small child's experience carries with it emotions which can be related to, a responder, regardless of context, time or culture can relate to and experience the same emotions, in this case sadness, and this brilliant display of creative writing is integrated in the joys of reading and understanding Marwood's poetry. Subtle techniques such as the metaphors for death like "violets and lam" carry ^{the} emotion of sadness as does the colours and description a desk, a symbol for death



or an end. Gwen Harwood has expertly intrigued decades of readers through this careful ~~repre~~ recreation of intense emotion experienced by the persona she created.

Gwen Harwood's poetry is well known for its sexual integrity and widely appealing issues and perceptions as well as its ability to be accepted in different contexts and times. The ability to take from her poetry many different truths or values resonates with a post modern or even post po mo audience as the importance of one's own truth has escalated dramatically. Since the time of Harwood's writing, however, ultimately the defining factor in the captivation of readers is the ingenious representation of intense human emotion that is so accurately and meticulously recreated, ~~which~~