

'At Marsden Bay' is a poem written by Peter Reading which explores many different issues and which Reading uses to educate the readers about the natural world that we live in. Reading does this with the use of many poetic techniques which he uses to build up to the final stanza, where he uses his ending to explore a very effective theme to make his ending just that little more interesting.

In stanza 1 reading introduces to the reader the natural world of Marsden bay and which species live there, which creates a very effective atmosphere for what is to happen in the end of the poem. Reading first introduces the sea the gulls but he does this using a very formal scientific tone: "Rissa Trydactyla" which is the Latin name for this species of bird. This shows to the reader that Reading has researched these birds and is very interested in them. But Reading doesn't just want the reader to know he's interested in these species he wants to give the reader some knowledge of the species so they can be equally interested and does this with the technique of a simile: "like tracer bullets". This simile is saying that when the sea gulls fly they are very well organised, like when these "bullets" are fired they are very sophisticated. This shows the reader that Reading must have been paying attention to these sea gulls and that they must be worth recognising and showing some respect to. This respect which Reading builds up throughout this stanza is extremely important to what is still to come in the ending which makes the poem that little bit more satisfying.

Reading uses Stanza 2 to introduce the first real characters in the play. Four boys are seen walking this beautiful bay, but these boys are represented as something which is likely to disrupt or destroy the beauty of the natural world; "wearing balaclavas ... (such as a rapist might find advantageous)." This shows the reader that these boys are no friend of nature and are not here to look at it. The way these boys are dressed tells the reader that they are seen by Reading as stereotypical "casuals" or "yobs" and are not very intelligent because they have to resort to some sort of violence so will have ignorance to the beauty of the natural world. This allows the reader to form a disgusted and unwelcoming view of the boys

and shows a major contrast to the species and the natural world of the first stanza which the reader had formed a certain respect for. By introducing such a contrast Reading is able to use this as a build up to what is to come in the ending of the poem and shows that without this build up the final stanza would just not be satisfying.

Reading's final stanza has been built up to throughout the poem. The final stanza presents a theme when the natural world of Marsden Bay along with its sophisticated and respected species which live there meet the stereotypical, violent "yobs" or "casuals" of the boys. Reading introduces the theme of 'man not living in harmony with nature.' He presents this by having two different tones. When he describes the seagulls and the bay he uses a very formal and scientific tone; "Magnesium limestone" this is used to present a stone which shows Reading has looked deeply into this natural world and has high knowledge of it, but when describing the actions of the boys he uses a very informal or casual tone; "grubs up". This shows the actions of one of the boys picking up a stone. This creates a major contrast to the way he sees these two creatures: he respects and has a lot of knowledge of the world of the birds but doesn't want the reader to have an appreciation or respect for the boys who clash with the birds and disrupt their natural habitat. The final line of the stanza highlights the theme of the poem; "Two hundred and eighty million years old" This shows just how long this beautiful, well kept bay has been around and undisrupted until these horrible, violent, disrespectful boys come along and wrecked a very interesting sophisticated species' home which has been around for centuries whereas these boys or "yobs" have only been around for around 14 - 18 years. This contrast and conflict make the ending so interesting.

In conclusion, *At Marsden Bay*, written by Peter Reading is a very interesting poem which uses many different poetic techniques including; similes, tone etc, to explore the effects of nature meeting man and why nature should be respected rather than cruelly destroyed. The purpose of the poem is to highlight and build up to the significant theme which is presented at the ending to make it more satisfying and interesting.

This essay was on a question about a poem with an interesting conclusion. It answers this question but could spend a little longer explain how. At one point the writer notes "Readings final stanza has been built up to throughout the poem" but this should have been explained clearly in the introduction and then referred back to. They know the poem well and are able to explain it well. As a result this essay would receive a mark of about 13.