

Nature, a delicate balance that man cannot really comprehend. Mankind can be a saviour to nature or a destroyer, more often than not he is the latter. A poem which deals with the destruction of nature by man is 'At Marsden Bay' by Peter Reading. In this essay I will show how the poets use of techniques helps to convey his views.

In the first Stanza, the poet uses a scientific tone to describe the beach:

"Arid hot dessert stretched here in the early Permian Period"

The scientific tone here helps to show respect to the beach. By doing this it shows that the poet has taken time to learn about the beach, and that is what he wants the reader to do as well, to take our time and appreciate and learn about nature.

As well as describing the beach, the poet takes time to describe the birds that live on the beach. A quote that shows this is "Rissa trydactyla colonises" this continues the scientific tone, which continues to show respect the poet has.

Sound effects are also used to describe the birds: "Kit - e - wayke, kit - e - wayke". This generates more respect because it puts it across that the poet has tried hard to describe the bird calls. He takes his time to point out individual birds which shows his appreciation for the animals, and his research, this adds to the sense of respect generated in the first stanza.

In the second Stanza, the idea of respect shown in stanza one is contrasted with the entrance of four yobs. The writer's word choice helps to describe the boys effectively: "A balaclava with a long narrow eye-slit". In this quote words such as "Balaclava" help to describe the boys as it shows how violent they are, as balaclavas are associated with crime and fear. "Slit" helps to emphasize this violence as it sounds like a movement a knife would make. Once again the poet takes time to describe sound, but in contrast to the respect generated for the birds in stanza one, it generates dislike: "Lookatembastabirdsmon" shows this. The quote sounds like a threat and in a way is a premonition of what is to come in the next stanza.

In the last stanza, the premonition comes true and there is a conflict between the birds and the boys. The poet uses sound effects and imagery to describe how the yobs hurt the seagull. Words such as "wheezing" and "thumps" do this. These words help make you sympathise with the birds. "Thumps" makes you as the reader believe that the bird has been hurt because it falls heavily and has no strength. In the end of the poem the poet mentions how old the beach is: "Two hundred and eighty million years old." The poet emphasises the theme of respect and that with age we should respect them more but the boys do not do this.

The theme the poet uses through all three stanza's is that all of nature is precious and should be respected by all of mankind. In this poem the birds and the beach represent all of nature and the yobs stand for mankind. The poet's use of scientific tone shows that mankind paid more attention and looked properly at nature it could be respected or even saved. The boys make a stand in this poem and show all of mankind's

ignorance of nature. In the last stanza it is like the conflict between nature and man, this results in mankind "winning" but is this really a victory? Or quite possibly a disaster. The poet's tone helps to emphasise how respect should be shown for the birds (scientific) and no respect for the boys violence (chatty/informal). The poet's description of the birds "rissa trydactlya" makes you respect the birds because he shows a formal tone. This contrasts with the boys, just like in real life, "drunk chimps" shows how the poet shows his dislike for them by describing them as primitive beings. All of this helps to emphasise the theme of nature.

The poet's use of technique helps emphasise the theme of nature. "At Marsden Bay" by Peter Reading has deepened my understanding of this theme, and has given me a new perspective on how mankind's ignorance can damage our environment. I think that the poet's main theme of respect is very important and people should listen to his views. I also liked the good use of tone to derive respect or dislike from the reader, and maybe make me change my view of mankind towards nature, such as when the boys crush the eggs and many people will think that it is no big deal, but really it is a small thing that can mean a great thing too.

This is a good basic essay. It shows (some) knowledge of the text and it answers the question. This was about a poem with an important message. But you have to do a little 'reading between the lines' to see how they are answering the question – this could be more explicit, and there could be more information from the text (there's a lot missing here). This essay would be a pass but at the 10/11 mark.