

Wind by Ted Hughes

This house has been far out at sea all night,
The woods crashing through darkness, the booming hills,
Winds stampeding the fields under the window
Floundering black astride and blinding wet

Till day rose; then under an orange sky
The hills had new places, and wind wielded
Blade-light, luminous black and emerald,
Flexing like the lens of a mad eye.

At noon I scaled along the house-side as far as
The coal-house door. Once I looked up -
Through the brunt wind that dented the balls of my eyes
The tent of the hills drummed and strained its guyrope,

The fields quivering, the skyline a grimace,
At any second to bang and vanish with a flap;
The wind flung a magpie away and a black-
Back gull bent like an iron bar slowly. The house

Rang like some fine green goblet in the note
That any second would shatter it. Now deep
In chairs, in front of the great fire, we grip
Our hearts and cannot entertain book, thought,

Or each other. We watch the fire blazing,
And feel the roots of the house move, but sit on,
Seeing the window tremble to come in,
Hearing the stones cry out under the horizons.

Information

This poem *Wind* is from Hughes' very first published collection of poems, *Hawk in the Wind* (1957). *Wind* is related to nature and particularly nature as it appeared in his childhood setting of West Yorkshire. His parents lived in a house high on a ridge which was exposed to gales. The poem explores the effect of a strong, incessant wind on the narrator as he shelters indoors.

Tasks

1. Highlight everything you can find that makes you think of the theme of POWER and NATURE in the poem. Can you label the technique you have highlighted? Label it with what it makes you think.
2. How does the poet present the theme of nature in the poem? Write an SQI starting with:

The poet presents nature as an incredibly powerful thing in the world in this poem.