

## Life Cycle

### **What is the poem about?**

Life cycle talks about children growing up in a family of football barrackers. How being brought up in a family of football supporters encourages and enforces the passion for football. That from the moment the child is born and through out their life, until death these people love football because of their up bringing. It talks bout how these families influence their children so much that the football almost becomes a religion, where the football grounds are their church.

### **What is the poet trying to say?**

Throughout the poem life-cycle, Bruce Dawe emphasises and exaggerates that we are what we are taught. That what we learn from or families defines and fine tunes our way of life, personality and personal interests and hobbies. "*They are wrapped in club-colours, laid...*" (Second line, first stanza). This quote forwards Dawe's belief that parents start teaching their children from the youngest of ages the way to act, talk, walk and think all according to what they believe is morally correct, which later defines who or what we are destine or have become. "...*And the covenant is sealed.*" (Third line, fifth stanza). This quote reveals just how much Dawe believes these children can be influenced by their families and the culture they are brought up in. It is also a biblical reference which he often uses to appeal to the readers beliefs and understandings. '*In the pure flood sound...*' (First line, fifth stanza) He also uses alliteration moderately throughout the poem to emphasis on particular words which he then further emphasises by using repetition "*crying carn...carn*" (second line, eleventh stanza).

"*While parents playfully tassel with them*", (second line, second stanza). This quote is one of the examples of imagery that Dawe uses. This helps the reader relate to the poem and appeals to a sense of "security". All of these techniques used reinforce what Dawe is trying to say whilst capturing the reader's attention and keeping them engaged in the poem.

### **How does it fit into the theme?**

To belong we must have some form of identity both from our own perspective and from other peoples' perspectives. Identity is the characteristics, by which we and others can declare, define and classify who we are. This poem talks about how from a very young age we are taught how to walk talk and act; hence forming a major part of our identity. It also talks about how we can become "one of the crowd" so to speak that is we can belong to a group and no longer be identified as individuals but as a whole therefore destroying what others see as our individuality but not necessarily our identity. This fits nicely into our current theme of identity and belonging as life cycle also concentrates a lot on the idea of belonging and our identity.

Written pieces-

Narrative on Rebellion

Twins separated at birth- nature vs nurture

Expository essay on Nature vs Nurture (or persuasive)