

AQA Unseen Poetry
Cold

How does the poet present his ideas about the weather in 'Cold'?

(24 marks)

Tonight the brittle trees
rattled and snapped in wind and the stars broke
trembling like shattered ice.
Logs and frozen heather creaked
and starlight shook under our feet.

My son and I went on to the moor,
walking under drapes of a low sky.
A skull cracked underfoot;
a tarred roof winked; a snowball fell;
then quiet that seemed to glow.
We came indoors when we had stared at snow.

Now we change our places at the hearth
like penguins on an ice floe. Draughts
enter through wall and roof; the swords
of cold sneak through our warmth
like poison threading liquid in a glass.

Glyn Hughes

Both 'Cold' and 'From the Night Window' describe feelings about the night. What are the similarities and/or differences in the way these ideas are presented?

(8 marks)

From the Night Window

The night rattles with nightmares.
Children cry in the close packed houses.
A man rots in his snoring.
On quiet feet, policemen test doors.
Footsteps become people under streetlamps.
Drunks return from parties.
Sounding of empty bottles and old songs.
The young women come home.
The pleasure in them deafens me.
They trot like small horses
And disappear into white beds
At the edge of night
All windows open this hot night,
And the sleepless, smoking in the dark,
Making small red lights with their mouths,
Count the years of their marriages.

Douglas Dunn