****~~Crime~~ **Poem Scene Investigation: Walking Away**

Let’s take a close look at a well-known poem from one of the Anthologies. As when examining a witness or a suspect, we need to look for inconsistencies. Does their account of things really hold up?

Here are some questions you might like to ask of Mr Day-Lewis.

You seem to remember the day very clearly after such a long time. How can you be so sure of the detail you have provided?

You mention your son ‘drifting away like a satellite wrenched from it orbit’. Even something wrenched from an orbit would continue in a curve. Did you son walk off in a curve, are you saying?

Again, sir, you describe him as ‘eddying away’. Are you saying he was going round in circles? Surely this would be quite concerning – if it was indeed what happened?

And ‘like a winged seed’? I have some information about winged seeds as it happens: maple, sycamore and ash, for example. They catch the breeze or they twist and swirl. Did he twist and swirl – and if so did you not think thee was something wrong with him? Might he have sustained an injury in the football match?

Later on in your statement you become, if I may say so, rather incoherent. ‘Something I never quite grasp to convey’ and then this curious phrase, ‘the small, the scorching ordeals which fire one’s irresolute clay.’ Would you be able to tell us what you mean by that, sir?

So, this parting, Mr Day-Lewis, ‘gnaws’ at your mind so much after all these years. Is that because you feel guilty in some way?

These questions are intended to make students really think about the words the poet uses. To make the lesson more dramatic, the teacher could take the role of Day-Lewis and attempt to answer the questions to the best of their ability! In an able class, students could be divided into questioners and answerers. Either way, it is worth recording the session for other classes to enjoy – and learn from.

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