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| T | Originally – the word choice here is an echo of the question ‘foreign people’ get asked when there is something about them that stands out.  |
| F | The poem is in three verses of 8. There is a rhyme scheme but it is broken – this is to reflect the speaker’s anxiety and uncertainty and the disorder she felt at this time in her life. The deliberate use of fragmented memories and childish words or phrases is reminiscent of how we recall our childhoods.  |
| S1 | Journey from Glasgow to her new home.  |
| S2 | Explores her sense of not fitting into her new world.  |
| S3 | She is asking a bigger question of how we identify ourselves or others around us and how much of that comes from your environment.  |
| 1 | ‘our own country’ word choice suggests that she identified as Scottish to begin with. **metaphor** - ‘Red room’ – possibly of an aeroplane or car as it ‘fell through the fields’ suggesting flying or moving down a map southward. The word choice of ‘fell’ suggests her feeling of unease at the move. Both these quotes also use alliteration to highlight what she is saying.  |
| 4 | Brothers are visibly upset as they ‘cried’. The word choice ‘bawling’ shows how uncontrollable their emotions are. (Bawling is a more Scots/Northern word) |
| 5 | ‘miles rushed back’ is a metaphor for the huge distance between their old home and new. There is also a list to emphasise the distance as Duffy zooms in on her old home – ‘city, the street, the house, the rooms’ |
| 7 | Word choice ‘stared’ shows how empty Duffy felt about the move.  |
| 8 | Word choice ‘blind toy’ ‘holding its paw’ she tries to comfort the teddy in the same way she wants to be comforted.  |
| 9 | Metaphor – ‘all childhood is an emigration’ – people grow up from children into adults and change.  |
| 11 | Word choice and short sentence. ‘Your accent wrong.’ She feels like she gets singled out for how she sounds, she doesn’t fit in with everyone else. ‘corners which seemed familiar’ also suggests that the housing estates are all very similar to each other it’s the people who aren’t. |
| 13 | Alliteration on ‘big boys’ makes the older kids seem threatening.  |
| 15 | Simile shows parents worry and struggles with the move – ‘stirred like a loose tooth’ |
| 16 | Plaintive request from Duffy in her own voice from the time of the move, ‘ I want my own country’. The tone is simple and childish reflecting her age at the time she was saying it.  |
| S3 | Opens with a conjunctive ‘ But’ which shows that Duffy did learn to adapt.She uses second person here ‘ you forget, or don’t recall’ which exposes the fragile nature of all our childhood memories.  |
| 18 | ‘swallow a slug’ is alliterative. It refers back to the big boys eating worms and shows that the family is now fitting in with the other kids.  |
| 19 | Deliberate use of scots word here ‘skelf of shame’. Also alliterative. Duffy is still attached to her Scottish roots. It is a little niggling part of her, like a splinter.  |
| 20 | Simile ’shedding its skin like a snake’. She compares her tongue losing its Scottish sound to a snake losing its skin. Snakes do this when they grow, she is showing she is growing |
| 21 | Rhetorical question ‘Do I only think/ I lost a river, culture, speech, sense of first space/ and the right place?’ This is the question Duffy has focused on the whole way through the poem yet she still can’t find an answer. She is challenging everyone’s thoughts on identity.  |
| 24 | ‘where do you come from? Originally?’ shows that Duffy continues to have mixed feelings about her identity.  |
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