**Themes**

**Quotes**

**-*"and it's one up for Ireland"*-**seen as a game, prejudice spread through lack of understanding.

**-*"Boo-hoo, lend me a hanky****."*-Lack of sympathy/empathy - doesn't seem to grasp the gravity of the situation

***-"...not be turning round in the foreseeable future"*-** literally not enough space to turn, metaphorically trapped in a conflict with no sign of ending, Nail's only ever been shown one way.

**-*"I must say it's for*** *Ireland"* - shows how his father is manipulating him, using his national pride to get him to do it.

**-*"Ireland the brave" says Uncle Eamon from the sidelines"*** *-* shows how Eamon isn't actually involved in the conflict but is allowing Nail to be forced into it when Nail doesn't understand it.

**-*"The last thing to go is the wee label"-*** symbolic of the fact that prejudice, something that separates people by labelling them things such as Catholic, Protestant etc, is something that lingers long after the conflict is over. Prejudice is passed from generation to generation so the intolerance continues as well.

***-"one side against the other"*** - Father's linear view of the conflict, his refusal to accept the complexity of the conflict. He's sees it as black and white-no grey area.

***-"It's a scream that scares the shit outa me"*** - Nail is just a scared child but he's using adult language. Contrasts the start when he was trying to hide his fear.

**Trojan Sofa - Bernard MacLaverty**

-Concealment

-Spread of prejudice through lack of understanding

-Corruptibility of innocence

-How conflict can affect relationships

**Message**

MacLaverty is trying to convey how conflict can pollute innocence and that this is how prejudice is spread but also that though the conflict might end the prejudice will linger.

**Key Points of Analysis**

-Title- "Trojan Sofa" conveys the idea of danger disguised as gifts. In this case, the father pretending to be doing something noble and acting like he loves his son yet putting him in harm's way and depriving Nail of his childhood

-Nail's search for approval - He wants his dad to be proud and this clouds his judgement, blinding to him to his father's wrongs. Pretends to be unafraid to emulate his father but is actually scared.

-Father's affect on Nail - His father has indoctrinated him so Nail is incapable of forming his own opinions. Even though it's clear Nail is intelligent he cannot see this so is trapped.

-Irony - When he escapes the house and runs back to his father, he's running back into a different kind of jail. He is stuck with his father and his opinions and judgements.

-The thieving - The father makes out he is doing it for honour and Ireland but he's doing it for himself and to embarrass the protestants. There's nothing noble about it.

-Father misguiding Nail - The father is forcing his views on Nail which confuses him and leads him into a dangerous life filled with wrong doing which Nail is taught to believe is right.