**Term 5 Wk 2 Lesson 2 Y9**

**Do now:**

1. **What was the industrial revolution?**
2. **Name three nonreligious Christmas traditions.**
3. **Complete the following quotation: ‘A squeezing, … grasping ….clutching….old sinner’**

**Unseen Poetry**

When analysing an unseen poem, you may not always ‘get it’ on a first read; often you have to re-read a few times and make notes, picking out:

* key words
* poetic techniques
* structural devices

Read the following poem, which presents the speakers feelings about watching someone you love grow up.

Read the poem and answer the questions below:

1. In line two the poet uses the verb ‘strut’-what does this suggest here?
2. The speaker uses ‘spindle-thin’ to describe her sister’s legs, what does this suggest?
3. The poem is entitled ‘Poem for my Sister’. What does this imply about the speaker’s feelings towards her sister?
4. The speaker talks about her own feet being ‘distorted’ and ‘calloused’ what does this comparison suggest?
5. When the speaker says she tries to warn her sister about ‘unsuitable shoes’, what else might she be talking about?

**Poem for My Sister**

**The verb ‘strut’ suggests she thinks she is on a catwalk pretending to be older than she is.**

My little sister likes to try my shoes,

to strut in them,

admire her spindle-thin twelve-year-old legs

**The use of enjambment into ‘in this season’s styles’ shows how long her sister’s legs are-she seems to feel sadness.**

in this season’s styles.

She says they fit her perfectly,

but wobbles

**‘but wobbles’ brings the reader back to the idea that her sister is younger and needs help in life still, even though she thinks she is older.**

on their high heels, they’re

hard to balance.

I like to watch my little sister playing hopscotch,

**Tone changes here to how the older sister likes to see her younger sister doing childlike things.**

admire the neat hops-and-skips of her,

their quick peck,

**Assonance of ‘quick peck’ emphasises the sharpness and accuracy young children have when playing games – do adults lose this?**

never-missing their mark, not

over-stepping the line.

She is competent at peever\*.

I try to warn my little sister

**Another change in tone to a more adult voice-is she talking about more than just shoes here?**

about unsuitable shoes,

point out my own distorted feet, the callouses,

odd patches of hard skin.

**The enjambment into ‘in my shoes’ suggests how the speaker does not want to see her sister make her mistakes.**

I should not like to see her

in my shoes.

I wish she could stay sure footed,

sensibly shod.

**The poem ends in a real adult voice and emphasises how adults like to be comfortable with the alliteration of ‘sensibly shod’**

**Liz Lochhead**

*\*peever – another name for the game of hopscotch*

**Exam question:**

How does Lochhead present feelings experienced by watching someone you love growing up?

**Model answer:**

**Lochhead uses the metaphor of shoes to help describe watching her sister grow up as she says: ‘she says they fit her perfectly’ In other words, her younger sister looks up to her elder sister as she has ‘high heels’ and wishes to be older. More specifically the adjective ‘perfectly’ implies that the shoes do not fit the speaker like that and in fact, she admires her younger sister for her youth and enthusiasm for the shoes.**

**Your turn (at least three paragraphs)…**