 Resource 5a – Shagger’s funeral

Shagger’s funeral

| Quote | Technique | Language, identity, culture analysis | Any other comments? |
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| At Shagger’s funeral there wasn’t much to say that could be said in front of his old mum – she frightened us, the way | The rhyme scheme is unobtrusive. It is there but it doesn't stand out. It makes the poem flow, following natural 'Australian vernacular speech' patterns | The Australian male is natural, speaks casually in a broad accent |  |
| she frightened us | The morally upstanding mother ‘frightens them’ the adjective has negative connotations, especially about women | Women seen as the guardian of moral virtue and ‘frightening’ |  |
| And sat there, stony, stiff as Shagger, while the rest of us, well-oiled, tried hard to knuckle down to solemn facts | SimileIdiom ( well oiled – a term for being drunk, would have been understood by Dawe’s audience) | Even at the funeral the ‘mates’ are joking that they are sitting as stiff as Shagger and that they are already very drunk. Drinking and joking are part of Australian way of life and ‘larrikinism’the raw facts of the funeral – they tried to focus on that instead of their inappropriate memories of him/ the fact that they were a bit drunk |  |
| Like the polished box in the chapel aisle and the clasped professional sorrow, but the actsWere locked inside us like a guilty smile | Simile | Referenceto Reverend – it's his job to be sad and solemn at funerals but the similes make a point that they have done some ‘guilty’ things – Larrikinism and ‘mates’ or ‘blokes’ |  |
| the old shag-wagon, and beat out the dust from tetron cushions, poured oil in the hungry sump, flicked the forsaken Kewpie doll on the dash-board, | Alliteration – creates a rhythm and emphasises 'abandonment' | wagon used so often that it was never cleaned showing that Shagger lived up to his name of being promiscuous ‘one of the boys’ or that some time had passed since he was last with a woman in the wagonTetron is 100% polyester of 50 denier yarn which produces a fine silk like feel. |  |
| Of all the girls he’d loved or knocked or both, only Bev Whiteside showed – out in the streetShe gripped her hand-bag, said, ‘This is as far as I’m going, boys, or any girl will go from now on.’ | Use of diminutivesEuphemism | Bev is a diminutive (shortened or contracted) version of Beverly. By using diminutives someone is 'less', less important/serious and so on.“A diminutive is a word form or suffix that indicates smallness. ... almost every language has is the 'shrinking' of someone or something you like by the use of diminutives." It indicates that women were less important or treated less seriously.Euphemism for how 'far' you are sexually willing to go. Reinforces shagger's reputation. |  |
| The windy grave, hearing the currawongs shout in the camphor-laurels, and his old lady cry as if he’d really been a son and a half, what could any of us say that wasn’t a lie or that didn’t end up in a laugh at his expense | Personification of the graveSoundscape createdCynical tone | Scoffing, cynical tone- shagger was none of the things his mumbelieved him to be. Blokes have a secret code. |  |