Mid Stage 4 English – Selecting and Analysing Poems for an Anthology – Grade B

The first poem I would like to recommend for the anthology is called ‘The Housewife’s Lament’ by Alan Wells.

The poem is basically about a housewife under extreme stress. This person can be quite humorous but also melodramatic. The rhyming is quite simple and fairly straightforward. The poem also has a deeper meaning; one of the meanings that can be interpreted is that we should appreciate what the housewife does.

Wells uses repetition to show the chaos overwhelming her. By repeating that her children are screaming and causing trouble it builds up the intensity and suspense. The poem shows what is happening to the mother as well as the situation surrounding her to be that way. “A thumping migraines coming’ the cause is that her cooking has gone horribly wrong and her children keep screaming.

The poem slowly builds up with disasters. The end shows that if you simply aggravate and do not do anything to help the person you will be punished. Also it shows sometimes you should voluntarily give someone a helping hand.

This poem shows a very important message in a simple way. This poem will help students to appreciate and be thankful for what their mum does. In my opinion this poem is very appropriate and I highly recommend it because it gives good imagery of the chaos going on in the household.

The second poem I would like to recommend is ‘No more Boomerang’ by Kath Walker. This poem contracts to the previous one because it is quite sad.

This poem tells us about how Aboriginal lives have been changed after the white men’s’ inhabitation in Australia. This poem would make a great asset to students mainly because this poem shows Australian History with great imagery. And it also expresses the sadness of Indigenous people.

Walker shows the influence of white men by repetition. She repeatedly starts her stanzas with the words ‘no more’, showing what was taken away from the Aboriginal people. After this she says what the white men replaced it with.

The poem shows sadness and despair the Aboriginal people faced after the white men’s arrival. The strong imagery that will help students understand Australian history.
'No more sharing what the hunter brings' shows that the Aboriginal culture is disappearing. Walker brings out the message that ancient Indigenous cultures are being lost. This poem will help the students learn about Australian heritage.

The third and last poem I would like to recommend for the anthology is 'At Hertha Road Rubbish Dump' by Anna Donald.

This poem is about the poet wondering why a seagull is at a rubbish tip instead of the ocean. The tone is quite sentimental about nature. Donald uses contrast to show how the ocean is wonderful, and the rubbish dump is horrible. Donald uses personification to give the seagull human features and this gives the seagull feelings. She gives the idea that the seagull should be chained for choosing the rubbish tip over the ocean.

This poem is interesting and shows the pollution humans are creating and how ugly it can be. It is great for students because it raises awareness about pollution. This poem will make the students realise the importance of the environment. The poem also lets the readers think about the bigger picture, how pollution is affecting wildlife too. This poem is great for students and benefits their ability to think outside the square.

Grade Commentary

Chandra has demonstrated thorough knowledge and understanding of poetry analysis. There is clear evidence of personal engagement, and supporting evidence for the choice of poems has been provided. The response is sustained and coherent, although it lacks an introduction and conclusion. The level of analysis indicates an understanding of the composer’s audience and purpose and some understanding of the use of literary devices. Competent use of vocabulary and few errors in spelling and punctuation indicate careful editing.

Chandra’s response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade B standard midway through Stage 4.