HOMING

Liz Berry



WHAT HAPPENS? A speaker recalls a suppressed accent and imagines releasing its words into her own speech.

BIG IDEA **Recovering a suppressed regional voice becomes an act of love and cultural inheritance.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

“box”

Extended metaphor

An accent is imagined as a physical inheritance that can be locked away.

“rusted”

Adjective

Long suppression has made release difficult, not unnecessary.

“furnace”

Metaphor

The speaker’s mouth becomes a place where inherited language is remade with force.

“pigeons”

Simile

Freed words resemble creatures able to find their way home.

FORM

Free verse with enjambment and dialect words; the movement from containment to release shapes the poem’s argument.

CONTEXT

Berry’s Black Country vocabulary challenges the social hierarchy that treats some accents as less legitimate than standard speech.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Name Journeys: linguistic pressure. A Wider View: recovering the lives of earlier generations.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Accent hidden

RESTRAINED AND HURT

Lessons and punishment explain why a family voice has been kept out of public hearing.

Accent escaping

AFFECTIONATELY ATTENTIVE

Small sounds reveal a linguistic identity that suppression has not entirely erased.

Inheritance and return

DEFIANT AND LIBERATING

The speaker wants to use the words herself and send them openly into the world.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.

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