POPPIES

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WHAT HAPPENS? A parent recalls a son's departure through intimate domestic details.

BIG IDEA **Separation can turn ordinary acts of care into an intense private encounter with public conflict.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

"spasms"

Bodily diction

A paper flower briefly evokes involuntary pain.

"blockade"

Military metaphor

The vocabulary of war enters a domestic fastening.

"song bird"

Symbolism

Release links independence with the parent's loss of control.

"playground voice"

Auditory memory

The ending reaches towards an earlier, familiar version of the child.

FORM

A first-person address in four unequal stanzas of free verse; recollection moves between domestic and commemorative spaces.

CONTEXT

Written for a contemporary collection responding to war. Remembrance symbols coexist with a parent's specific emotional experience.

COMPARE IT WITH…

War Photographer: private responses to public conflict. Kamikaze: family and loss.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Preparing to leave

TENDER BUT RESTRAINED

Clothes and touch carry feelings the speaker struggles to express.

Departure

PROUD AND BEREFT

The child's excitement is followed by the parent's solitary movements at home.

Memorial

LONGING AND UNCERTAIN

A search for connection ends in listening; the son's death is not explicitly confirmed.

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

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