THE ÉMIGREE

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WHAT HAPPENS? A displaced speaker protects a luminous memory of a city against threatening reports.

BIG IDEA **Remembered belonging can resist political exclusion while remaining selective and idealised.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

“sunlight-clear”

Compound adjective

Memory is made bright and apparently certain.

“branded”

Violent verb

Attachment becomes a permanent mark, carrying pleasure and pain.

“docile”

Personification

The remembered city seems available to care for and control.

“shadow”

Contrasting imagery

Even darkness is interpreted as evidence that remembered light persists.

FORM

Three stanzas of free verse; recurring light imagery links each movement of the speaker’s recollection.

CONTEXT

An unnamed city prevents a single historical identification. Displacement and hostile national boundaries shape the imagined situation.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Checking Out Me History: identity and resistance. London: contrasting city experiences.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Childhood city

AFFECTIONATE AND DEFIANT

Reports of change cannot displace the speaker’s luminous first memory.

Language and borders

PROTECTIVE

Time and restriction intensify the need to preserve an internal homeland.

City in exile

LOVING BUT THREATENED

Personification brings the city close while hostile voices make belonging precarious.

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