

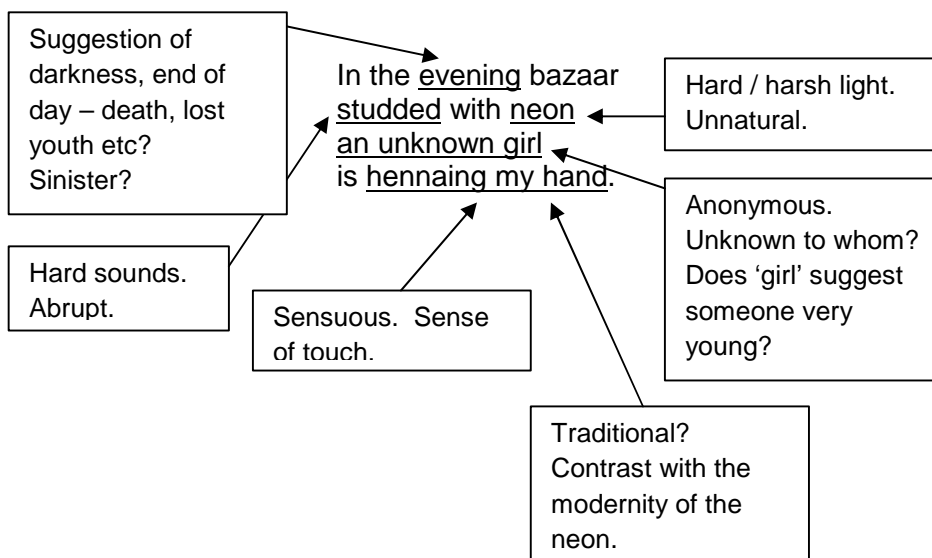
An Unknown Girl

Complete the following activities to help you explore and understand the poem.

1. What does the title of the poem suggest to you? Does it give the girl importance or does it emphasise her anonymity?
2. What do you picture when you imagine the following:

icing	peacock	train	balloons	streets
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3. Find the words in the poem and see if your ideas match the images in the poem.
4. Look at the colours in the poem. What impression do you get from them?
5. Look at the annotated first few lines of the poem below and see if you agree with the ideas of the writer. Add your own suggestions to these:



6. What effect do the short lines in the poem have? In what ways do they match the topic of an anonymous person in a bazaar?
7. Look at the repetition in the poem. Do you think it is important to the meaning of the poem? Explain how.
8. Look at the number of times the personal pronoun 'I' has been used. Why do you think this is?

9. Match up the following phrases from the poem and discuss why the poet found these effective:

few	line
sofa	veins
unknown	lines
snail	bazaar
wet brown	knee
neon	rupees
evening	lines
new brown	streets
satin-peach	cloth
Western	bird
dry brown	girl
curtain	baazar
amber	kameez
peacock	cloth
shadow-stitched	trail
furious	perms

10. Is this a poem about:

hennaing	contrasts	homesickness
A girl	a bazaar	society

Discuss your ideas with a partner. Try arguing that each one is right and consider which one has the most evidence. Perhaps you have another idea about the poem. Add this to the list and decide if you can find evidence to prove you are right.