

Boy

Discuss the following questions with a partner and prepare notes to present your ideas to the rest of the group

1. Read the poem through once and summarise, in no more than one sentence for each:
(a) what you think it's about; (b) what you think of it.
2. Why does Duffy use 'pyjamas' and 'slippers' as the symbols of being young?
3. What are the 'three wishes sucked up a chimney of flames'? Why do you think Duffy has chosen this image and method of destruction?
4. What does, 'I can do it though' mean?
5. What was the joke of the older woman in stanza four?
6. What is the speaker doing in the final verse?
7. How, in what ways, and why does your attitude towards the speaker change?
8. Can you summarise each of the four stanzas? Why has Duffy chosen this structure? Why does each stanza have three lines? What effect does it have?
9. Why do you think Duffy has used caesura so much in this poem? What effect does it have?
10. Do you find this poem humorous; sinister; sad; pathetic; something else?