

How have writers used language creatively and imaginatively for a range of purposes?

Express insight – Father and Child (G Harwood)

Harwood, in her poem *Father and Child*, describes a scene of a child creeping out of the house and preparing to use their father's gun to shoot and kill an owl. She portrays this scene to express insight into the development of a child and the growth that occurs as they move closer to the adult stage. In this poem, the child attempts to usurp the power of the father, by rising early "old nay sayers, robbed of power by sleep" and doing the deed. However, the poem clearly suggests that the child is not yet capable of such an adult and cruel – like act. Harwood is illuminating how a child can grasp too soon for independence, before they are ready, either emotionally or socially, and as a result, create damage to themselves and those around them.