

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 1 ☒

Question 2 ☒

Question 3 ☒

Question 4 ☒

Eavan Boland communicates her experience of moving as a difficult and negative change in her life. She opens her memoir with a positive and descriptive account of her home in Dublin. She uses a lexical set relating to old traditional architecture and lifestyle for example "stone steps... garden... fields... glasshouses... raggy brown-and-white terrier" and "lilac and roses along a stone wall. This creates pleasant, ~~good~~ calm imagery to establish her love for her home. The Compound sentence structure contrasts effectively to the end of the paragraph with the simple sentences "the life had changed. The home had changed." This sets up the reader for a more negative description of 1950's London.

The second paragraph contains a highly contrasting lexical set relating to a formal, regal environment - "gilded iron... polished balustrade... formal carpets" and "the emblems of the four provinces." This immediately communicates her experience as disorientating and unusual as she crosses the geographical boundary from Dublin to London. The juxtaposition of, for example "stone steps" and "gilded iron fretwork" creates a conflict of tradition and modernisation, further suggesting an unusual and disorientating move for a young child.

Boland conveys the environment of London as not appropriate for children and



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somewhat dull through the description of "what was bad and what was good." She adopts a child-like register here to ~~even~~ communicate her memories of being a child in London and the effect it had on her. Her descriptions - "bad, it seemed, was dropping soft toys - bad was making noise" use stereotypical child-like activities and lexis, paired with the negativity of the abstract noun ~~objective~~ "bad" ~~emphasises~~ to emphasize the coldness of London and how it stopped her from behaving as a child should. Furthermore the repetition of "bad was..." ~~further~~ emphasizes her child-like register, to communicate the confusion she felt when she moved.

Throughout the memoir, Boland uses simple sentences in her descriptions of moving to reflect the bleak nature of her experience. "Exile is not simple" communicates a blunt and realistic view of the reason she has been forced to move, and communicates the negativity she felt about the change. Moreover - "I wanted simplicity, I craved it" shows the unhappiness the move caused her, and the struggle she went through to accommodate the change and get used to living in London.

Boland's description of the "contingent talk of adults" also communicates her experience of moving, as she was ordered to behave in a certain way after the move. The use of reported speech in "Stop that. Settle down. Go to sleep now" shows the memories Boland has of the way she was ^{by adults} treated at the time, and



suggests negative connotation) of the "adults" she was surrounded by, as they use imperative "stop", "settle" and "go" to tell her what to do. This emphasises the negativity of the move and ~~into~~ the experience as a whole.

As Boland describes the city of London itself, she uses a semantic field relating to unpleasant conditions and weather. "First winter... yellow fog... drifted smokily" and "all I knew of this city was its fog" creating unpleasant imagery of an all-consuming, inescapable fog, which caused passersby to be "gagged in white handkerchiefs". The unpleasant verb "gagged" ^{here} connotes sickness and plague, further suggesting the negative experience that moving was for Boland. The effective use of anaphora at the end of this paragraph - "All I knew of the country was this city; all I knew of this city was its fog" creates a poetic image of the fog hiding the true beauty of the country for Boland. *

Boland takes on a different tone in the final paragraph. As the seasonal boundary of "the first winter [passing]" is crossed, Boland too crosses from hate to appreciation of London. Boland uses colour imagery "crocuses, purple, white and yellow", and a pleasant description of "a swell of grass" to show how her attitude towards London changed with the seasons. Furthermore, the use of proper nouns in this final paragraph - "North London", "England", "English", suggests a newfound respect for the country, as previously she has adopted a dismissive, euphemistic tone with the



use of "this house", "somewhere else" and "the city." The acceptance of the name of the country shows her experience took time to become accustomed to, but was eventually positive.

* The description of the fog also references the polluted state of London in the 1950's with the inefficiency of ^{cars} ~~cars~~ and burning of fossil fuels. This helps the reader understand the environment Boland was living in, effectively communicating her experience of moving.

Overall Boland communicates her experience as initially very difficult as she struggled to fit in as a child in London. However as the seasonal boundaries are crossed, Boland too seems to begin to appreciate the experience of moving and the new country she is in.

