

The student is able to analyse a range of methods in depth, giving precise and insightful interpretations.

Quotations are selected judiciously to support the argument and they are embedded seamlessly.

The student is able to analyse the structure of the text in detail, considering the effects of the writer's decisions.

They have been able to offer a personal and thoughtful reflection on the poem, showing a deep understanding. Ideas are highly thoughtful and perceptive.

23 Nettles by Vernon Scerrill

The father uses the language of war / lexical field of war to describe the 'regiment' of nettles, whose tall 'spears' end up blistering - 'wounding' his son. He may use this simile in the field to suggest that his son is fighting the constant war of life, and that he is vulnerable to the many dangers the war of life brings - nettles in this case. He uses this extended metaphor of the nettles being militaristic; this may suggest that the nettles are fighting the sun and rain as well as the boy himself. His poem suggests to me that he feels worried for his son, ^{because} he's vulnerable to many 'wounds' such as those of the nettles. Not the father can fix these physical wounds now, but not those to come in the future - physical or mental.

Moreover, the use of cyclical stanza structure in the phrase - 'my son' has the effect of making us ^{think} ~~ponder~~ that no matter how old you or your child are, you don't want ~~can~~ to get hurt, physically or mentally, at all; and that feeling of constant worry for your younger child, who is ~~the~~ unaware of the dangers of life and nature that you are aware of, and the repetition of this phrase in the structure can also imply that we don't encounter injury just once; but it happens to us over and over - there is no limit.