 Barn owl handout 1

Consider some critical commentary - [Bonny Cassidy’s discussion of Barn Owl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4sb2eMfUpI) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d4sb2eMfUpI (can be used as a Related Text)

Questions on the video:

1. What are two features of Harwood’s poetry that appeal to Bonny Cassidy?
2. In what ways does Father and Child address ‘big ideas’?
3. Can you think of an example of how Harwood conveys emotion in “quite muted, almost repressed ways”?
4. What is Bonny Cassidy’s view of family in Harwood’s poetry?
5. Bonny Cassidy says that she thinks irony is “the great frame around her entire body of work” and that is allows Harwood to “look at ideas that she feels earnestly but not to look at them in sentimental and nostalgic ways”. In what ways does irony allow Harwood to look at “feelings as philosophical problems” in Father and Child? (This could be set as an extended writing task)

Related text – Set for Homework

Read [“The incredible Vanishing poet](http://solongbulletin-blog.tumblr.com/post/7678907534)” by Bonny Cassidy

Answer the following questions:

1. How, in Bonny Cassidy’s view, does mythology resemble poetry?
2. What do you think Bonny Cassidy means when she says” I don’t mean that the poets are missing: but that they are … away”?
3. How many Harwood pseudonyms (pen-names) have been uncovered “as late as 2004”? What does this imply about Harwood?
4. If Walter Lehmann is the pseudonym that “told the Bulletin exactly what Harwood was thinking” – but which she could never have managed to publish under the name of “Mrs Harwood”, how does that influence our reading of “Triste, Triste”?
5. What do you think Bonny Cassidy means when she says “Harwood was acutely aware of how her appearance and biography betrayed the depths of her thought and possibilities in her work”? (look at a picture of Gwen Harwood)