 Resource 5a – Shagger’s funeral

Shagger’s funeral

| Quote | Technique | Language, identity, culture analysis | Any other comments? |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| At Shagger’s funeral there wasn’t much to say that could be said in front of his old mum – she frightened us, the way | The rhyme scheme is unobtrusive. It is there but it doesn't stand out. It makes the poem flow, following natural 'Australian vernacular speech' patterns | The Australian male is natural, speaks casually in a broad accent |  |
| she frightened us | The morally upstanding mother ‘frightens them’ the adjective has negative connotations, especially about women | Women seen as the guardian of moral virtue and ‘frightening’ |  |
| And sat there, stony, stiff as Shagger, while the rest of us, well-oiled, tried hard to knuckle down to solemn facts | Simile  Idiom ( well oiled – a term for being drunk, would have been understood by Dawe’s audience) | Even at the funeral the ‘mates’ are joking that they are sitting as stiff as Shagger and that they are already very drunk. Drinking and joking are part of Australian way of life and ‘larrikinism’  the raw facts of the funeral – they  tried to focus on that instead of  their inappropriate memories of  him/ the fact that they were a bit drunk |  |
| Like the polished box in the chapel aisle and the clasped professional sorrow, but the acts  Were locked inside us like a guilty smile | Simile | Reference  to Reverend – it's his job  to be sad and solemn at funerals but the similes make a point that they have done some ‘guilty’ things – Larrikinism and ‘mates’ or ‘blokes’ |  |
| the old shag-wagon, and beat out the dust from tetron cushions, poured oil in the hungry sump, flicked the forsaken  Kewpie doll on the dash-board, | Alliteration – creates a rhythm and emphasises 'abandonment' | wagon used so often that it was never cleaned showing that Shagger lived up to his name of being promiscuous ‘one of the boys’ or that some time had passed since he was last with a woman in the wagon  Tetron is 100% polyester of 50 denier yarn which produces a fine silk like feel. |  |
| Of all the girls he’d loved or knocked or both, only Bev Whiteside showed – out in the street  She gripped her hand-bag, said, ‘This is as far as I’m going, boys, or any girl will go from now on.’ | Use of diminutives  Euphemism | Bev is a diminutive (shortened or contracted) version of Beverly. By using diminutives someone is 'less', less important/serious and so on.  “A diminutive is a word form or suffix that indicates smallness. ... almost every language has is the 'shrinking' of someone or something you like by the use of diminutives." It indicates that women were less important or treated less seriously.  Euphemism for how 'far' you are  sexually willing to go. Reinforces  shagger's reputation. |  |
| The windy grave, hearing the currawongs shout in the camphor-laurels, and his old lady cry as if he’d really been a son and a half, what could any of us say that wasn’t a lie or that didn’t end up in a laugh at his expense | Personification of the grave  Soundscape created  Cynical tone | Scoffing, cynical tone- shagger  was none of the things his mum  believed him to be. Blokes have a secret code. |  |