

Hawk Roosting – Ted Hughes



**LO – YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANALYSE
THEMES AND IDEAS
IN HAWK ROOSTING**

What does this image make you think?



Big question – Why have I put these images together?



Success Criteria



- Work out for yourself what is happening in the poem
- Use evidence from the poem to support your ideas
- Work out an answer to ‘The Big Question’.

What are hawks like?



- Watch this clip and write down 3 words from this list that you think best describe the hawk in the clip and why.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ai3eVjroPzg>

majestic

vicious

destructive

malevolent

almighty

powerful

supreme

executioner

graceful

divine

perilous

Poem – First read

Your teacher will read the poem to you for the first time.



- When reading, you should think about how this hawk is presented. Would you choose the same words to describe this hawk? Explain

majestic

vicious

destructive

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How is the hawk presented in this poem?



Hawk Roosting

I sit in the top of the wood, my eyes closed.
Inaction, no **falsifying** dream
Between my hooked head and hooked feet:
Or in sleep rehearse perfect kills and eat.

The convenience of the high trees!
The air's **buoyancy** and the sun's ray
Are of advantage to me;
And the earth's face upward for my
inspection.

Falsifying =
prove to be false
or alter so as to
mislead.

Buoyancy = the
ability to float

Stanzas 1 & 2



1. What is the hawk doing in the title?
2. Who is speaking in the poem?
3. What is he doing?
4. What does he think of nature – the sun, air and trees?
5. What impression do you get of him from the last line of the poem and why?

Stanzas 3 & 4



My feet are locked upon the rough bark.
It took the whole of Creation
To produce my foot, my each feather:
Now I hold Creation in my foot

Or fly up, and revolve it all slowly –
I kill where I please because it is all mine.
There is no sophistry in my body:
My manners are tearing off heads –

Sophistry = the use
of clever but false
arguments,
especially with the
intention of
deceiving.

Stanzas 3 & 4



Do you think the following statements are true or false?

Why? (Use evidence from the poem to support your answer)

TRUE OR FALSE?

- The hawk thinks it is God's most amazing creation

TRUE OR FALSE?



- The hawk believes that it owns the world.

TRUE OR FALSE?



- The hawk is an unfeeling murderer

Stanzas 5 & 6



The **allotment** of death.

For the one path of my flight is direct
Through the bones of the living.

No arguments assert my right:

The sun is behind me.

Nothing has changed since I began.

My eye has permitted no change.

I am going to keep things like this.

Allotment =
to give
something
out or grant
something

Stanzas 5 & 6



Could anyone or anything ever change the hawk's behaviour?

Big Question – Why have I put these images together?



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Hawk Roosting



- LO – You will be able to comment on the writer's use of language

Why do you think there is a military helicopter named after a hawk?



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fW3bGow3SU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EVcQrAD9GAI>

Find me a quote...



- That shows the hawk thinks it is superior to everything else.

Find me a quote...



- That shows the hawk thinks it controls life and death.

Find me a quote...



- That makes the hawk sound like a dictator.

Vocabulary to
show how he
is
evolutionary
perfect

What is the
Hawk's
motivation?

A quote
to show
he does
not need
clever
language

A brief
summary of
the poem

How does
the Hawk
view his
place in
the world?

A quote
about the
Hawk's
perspective

A quote
about
nature

How does
the Hawk
describe
himself?

In what way
is the Hawk
humanised?

What
does
the final
line
show?

What is
the poem
about?

How does
the Hawk
feel about
his kills?

A
quote
about
power

A quote to
show the
bird's self
importance.

How do
you feel
about
the
Hawk?

How
does he
prove
his right
to kill?

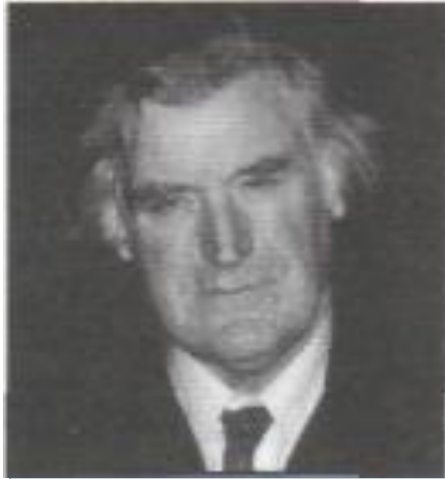
How does Ted Hughes present the hawk in 'Hawk Roosting'?



Extended writing success criteria

1. Give your opinion about how the hawk is presented in the poem.
2. Track through the poem using quotes to support your ideas about how the hawk is presented.
3. Offer alternative interpretations about how the hawk is presented

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Ted Hughes (1930-1998) served as the British Poet Laureate from 1984 until he died, for which he *received* the Order of Merit from Queen Elizabeth II. Born in West Yorkshire, he studied at Pembroke College, Cambridge, later spending most of his life in Devon. This is one of many poems that he wrote about nature and the natural world. At the time of writing Hughes was living with his wife Sylvia Plath, in America.

The 'Hawk Roosting' is a very powerful poem and there is more to the poem than first meets the eye. Ted Hughes writes the poem putting himself into the body and mind of a hawk. The hawk is portrayed as an arrogant megalomaniac and Hughes is very good at showing the way the hawk's mind works in a number of different situations and in different places.

Hawk Roosting

TED HUGHES

The themes throughout most of the poem revolve around power, ignorance and self indulgence. The hawk itself represents power and ignorance at the same time because he thinks that he is the most important animal in the woods and he is ignorant to the fact that he cannot have everything, in the poem Hughes shows this very well by using lots of emotive language and description about how the hawk thinks.

The poet presents the hawk as powerful and destructive. It's proud of its own perfection and efficiency. The hawk's attitude is egotistical and arrogant. It's omnipotent in its own eyes.

The poem is about a hawk boasting about its power. The hawk thinks that it is the most important and powerful creature in the world and that it controls the universe. The hawk describes how it likes to kill its prey in a particularly violent way. It could be a metaphor for the behaviour of political leaders or people in general.

How does Ted Hughes present the hawk in 'Hawk Roosting'?



Intro

In my opinion Ted Hughes presents the hawk as...

Middle

The title of the poem tells me that...

In the first two stanzas the hawk is... (summarise. Use quotes)

In these stanzas the hawk is presented as/described as/... (PEE) The word/phrase '_____' suggests...

Work through the rest of the poem.

How does Ted Hughes present the hawk in 'Hawk Roosting'?



Conclusion

What did you think of the way the hawk was presented? Which interpretation do you think best suits the poem – natural and magnificent creature or evil dictator?



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