



### QUESTION 2 (d) Douglas Stewart, Selected Poems

use distinctively visual ideas  
 composers ~~intend~~ to explore and  
 reveal their ~~perceptions~~ experiences  
 of the natural environment and  
 what can be gained through  
 interaction with the environment  
 Douglas Stewart and Odgers  
 Noonuccal shape their perceptions  
 of the landscape in order to  
 display the intricate beauty  
 and sentience of creation. While  
 poets hold contrasting perspectives,  
 both provide a message, which is  
 that the relationship between  
 humanity and nature is one that  
 provides growth and enrichment  
 of the individual.

Poets reveal the spiritual connection  
 which can be gained through  
 interaction with and peaceful  
 observation of the environment  
 In Douglas Stewart's 'Lady feeding  
 the Cats' the composer reveals  
 this concept through the  
 description of woman's daily  
 encounter with cats of the

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city slums in an attempt to escape her ~~lonely~~ the bleakness of her lonely existence - "If she has fed their bodies, than they have fed more than the body in her". Through the use of pathetic alliteration "Her bonnet much bedraggled" the woman is portrayed as socially degraded, however the use of the cliché "She is a princess out of a tower". It is suggested that her interaction with the cats offers her a sense of identity. Here Douglas Stewart exemplifies the spiritual connections between humanity and the natural world.

This is similarly revealed in Stewart's poem "Snow Guns" which describes the person's perception as he gazes upon a beautiful ~~snow~~ gun tree which stands alone in the silvery snow fields. While there is no physical interaction Stewart's ~~and~~ enjambment of "noon's blue and silvery; the big flowering of

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'light on snow' reveals ~~how~~ the intense experience of observing a ~~real~~ divine scene of nature. Also, through symbolic reference to the ~~tree's~~ shadow's 'clear reflection' Stewart enhances the tree's 'perfection' ~~as it stands~~. Here Stewart alludes to feelings of tranquility and serenity as a result of peaceful observation.

When comparing Stewart's poetry with ~~the~~ Dodge's Noonweal's poem 'Municipal Gum' there is a clear contrast in tone used as Noonweal refers to the growing separation of humanity and nature through the use of descriptive language "poor cart-horse/castrated, broken a thing wronged". Noonweal alludes to the prolonged pain of gum tree as it stands alone, ~~clearly~~ isolated in the urban environment. Unlike the vulnerability of the tree, Noonweal personalises the poem by addressing the tree "O fellow citizen, what have

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done to use?" which allows Noonuccal to display feelings of remorse as ~~to~~ her Indigenous connection with the environment has disappeared due to human intervention. Here Noonuccal uses ~~the~~ ~~the~~ visual imagery of ~~an~~ a dismantled ~~an~~ gum tree to reveal that the spiritual connection between humanity and nature ~~can~~ never be mended due to ~~self~~ reckless behaviour.

Through peaceful observation of the environment the distinctive characteristics and behaviours ~~of~~ ~~the~~ within the landscape are revealed. In the second stanza of 'Lady feeding the cats' Stewart provides an accumulation of negative connotations such as 'outlaws' and 'villainous forms' to portray present the cats as feral and untamed. The innards 'smiles that swear they would

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never harm a fly" creates a contrast to their behaviour, suggesting that the Cats are of an ~~inferior~~ untrustworthy and deceptive nature. Here Stewart reveals a darkside of nature

in "Wombat" ~~Stewart~~ However, Stewart also alludes to the instinctive nature of the environment. ~~Stewart~~ Synaesthesia is decisively adapted to show the wombat's rapt attention as some kind of foot breaks the "fierce silence" through the use of verbs such as "sniffing" and "blinking". Stewart implies the habitual behaviour of the wombat as it interacts with the environment.

Through his description of the wombat's behaviour, Stewart also refers to the sentence of creation. ~~with~~ The alliteration of 'Rocks, Rivers and Ridges' provides an accumulation of elements within the environment to suggest that they are all interconnected through his personalisation of the

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poem by addressing the wombat 'We Love our Mother Good Brother'. Stewart confirms the origins of creation, revealing that all the features of the landscape share unbreakable bonds. ~~By~~ By concluding his poem ~~in this~~ ~~way~~ referring to the wombat as the 'old tree-roots comparison' Stewart exemplifies the bonds which are essential for the stability of creation over time.

Noonuccal also reveals the sentience of creation by depicting the diversity ~~and~~ of nature in her poem "We are going". ~~through~~ The use of repetition of the ~~same~~ phrase "We are" in lines 9 to 17 <sup>allows</sup> Noonuccal to accumulate a range of basic elements within the environment such as "lightening" and "fire". ~~Through~~ ~~the~~ this compilation of forces, Noonuccal provides a unique way for the audience to visually perceive the connections

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present within the landscape.  
~~Through~~ ~~Also, the use of Abo~~  
Within the poem *Nooneccal* hints  
her indigenous connection with  
the land through the use of  
Aboriginal terminology such as  
'old boreal' which allows her  
~~to reveal this~~ ~~the~~ cultural symbol  
Furthermore suggests the unity of  
nature, as all forces come together  
as one to maintain the diversity  
of the landscape universally.  
Here the composer reveals her  
own perceptions of the environment  
through visual means to reveal  
how connections ~~are~~ present  
within the landscape are  
unbreakable.

~~The~~ Composers endeavour to  
explore their surroundings through  
visual imagery and language  
features and as a result reveals  
both the diversity and vulnerability  
of the natural world. Through

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analysing poetry of Douglas Stewart and Odgeroo Noonuccal, it is clear that there are varying perspectives in regard to the appearance of the natural world, and what a connection with the environment can offer to the environment.

~~These~~ <sup>These</sup> ~~distinctive~~ <sup>distinctive</sup> visual ideas, however reveal a universal truth; that the environment is of <sup>divine beauty</sup> ~~divinity~~, and provides guidance for individuals who seek connections with the landscape.