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Mr Higgins
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Glasgow 5th March 1971

Critical Essay

The poem titled 'Glasgow 5th of March' by Edwin Morgan is about a night in Glasgow where all hell breaks loose, the poem uses multiple different writing techniques. Including imagery and emphasis.

The writer shows the detail and emphasis in the quote; "The young man's face is bristling with fragments of glass and the girl's leg has caught on the broken window and spurts arterial blood". The quote shows that the boy has glass on his face and the light is refracting off of it, making it look like it is glistening like a star. The girls get has been caught on the broken glass and shows the seriousness of these injuries as it is spurting arterial blood, which is fast moving and a lot of blood.

When describing how the couple brace themselves, the writer uses imagery and personification; "Their arms are starfishes out braced for impact". The couple are not sea creatures and therefore cannot be starfish. This is showing their limbs being branched out to try and save themselves.

The youths have planned this and we know this as the poem states; "The two youths who have pushed them are about to complete the operation". This suggests that the two youths have pushed the couple and broke into the store but have planned this before hand. They know what is about to happen and have still done this act with no remorse.

The youths intention was to rob the store. “Reaching into the window to loot what they can smartly”; Loot means to take as much stuff as they can aggressively. It means they are just grabbing so much stuff and not caring about any body else. The youths only have one goal; to steal everything possible from the shop. However, they are doing this in a way that the commotion distracts others. It allows them to steal it very discreetly. I believe the writer used imagery and word choice.

The youths feel no remorse for their actions; “Their faces show no expression”. It is not possible to show no expression on your face, the writer is using imagery to show that they are not sorry for their actions. The lack of expression means that they are not showing any physical signs of remorse.

In conclusion, the writer used multiple writing and language techniques, these techniques have showed the writer’s intentions to the reader and essentially make the entire story. Imagery and emphasis is used to cast a detailed image in the readers mind. The writer has shown the reader exactly what he meant in his words by describing what he thought while writing them. Allowing the reader to process their own image allows a clear flow of imagination. The use of the words ‘crisp’ and ‘clear’ tell us how the night was. He uses techniques all throughout the story to allow the reader to unlock their own creative and imaginative potential.