

Midwinter, by Graham Davies - Dawn?

In the poem “Midwinter” Davies expresses ideas that he believes winter to be lifeless, expressing his nihilistic stance towards it.

Written, in a strict ABAB rhyme-scheme, the poem reflects Winter’s routine. The strict rhyming pattern captures the narrators lack of freedom, when describing the season - encapsulating the lifelessness in the narrator’s voice. This is further elucidated through the “breezes [that don’t move] branches [and] no birds [that] sing”. The use of alliteration in tandem with the ; evokes a sense of stillness and silence towards the reader. Moreover, the ; acts as a break from the text, further emphasising the lack of motion, insinuating Winter’s lifelessness. “Decembers frost [turnt] the world grey”. Winters properties are contradicted, the juxtaposition separates winters “frost” from its traditional snow-white image. Moreover, the hyperbole of “frost turning the world grey” captures how winter deprives the world of warmth, yet also colour reinforcing the notion Davies views winter as a lifeless season.

Davies, then expresses his nihilistic stance towards winter. Continuing, the poet laments how “The earth in winter [is] trusting for the spring.” Earth’s personification portrays it as desperate for a change in season, capturing the narrators underlying yearning for Spring. Yet, the notion is quickly overturned as “Dead leaves cling onto hedges”. The adjective “dead” used in tandem with the sensory verb “cling” captures the writers hopelessness, yet through the verb “cling” it also highlights winters to leave