

SECTION 19

Question 19

c) poetry

A successful narrative can involve and entertain the reader in a number of ways. An examination of the stories told in three poems of the poetry anthology Snapshots of Planet Earth illustrates this. The poem Streets of Laredo uses an interesting theme, rhyme and vivid imagery to involve the reader. Moreover the poem Unidentified Flying Object employs an unconventional structure, authentic vocabulary and imagery to entertain the reader. Furthermore, the poem What Has Happened to Lulu? uses ~~an~~ the repetition of the title <sup>and</sup> interesting vocabulary choices ~~and rhyme~~ to tell an interesting and involving story.

The poem Streets of Laredo tells the story of a young cowboy who died because of wrong choices he made during his life. This conveys the ~~theme~~ serious theme of taking responsibility and ~~the~~ This message is reinforced by the accepting consequences for one's own actions.

repetition of "done wrong" throughout the poem.

However, the act of forgiveness from the cowboy's friends can be seen in the repetition of "we all loved" in the lines:

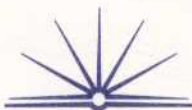
"For we all loved our comrade so brave, young and handsome,  
we all loved our comrade although he'd done wrong."

This highlights the feeling of love, which reinforces the relationship between the cowboy and the narrator.

The poem uses a traditional ballad structure of four lines in each stanza, with the second and fourth lines rhyming. This makes the poem easy to remember and lightens the theme. The clever use of imagery in this poem allows the reader to interact with the story being told. Adjectives such as "brave", "young" and "handsome" give the reader a vivid image of the cowboy. This reinforces the theme, but having the young cowboy face the punishment of his decisions.

Another interesting story is told by the poem Unidentified Flying Object, it talks about a man





create images such as =

'... a silvery dome  
with grassy-green and red-  
hot-looking lights like eyes  
that stared blinked stared.'

is stunning. The personification of the flashing lights as the bright eyes of an animal allow the reader to visualise the brightness of the colours <sup>lights of</sup> of the spaceship. The final line "The talk is getting mean" implies that some people do not believe Will's story and leaves the reader asking serious questions.

The poem What Has Happened to Lulu? ~~to~~ tells the story of a girl who left her home, probably because of some troubles she had in the family. The repetition of the title, as well as many other questions, such as =

"Why do you turn your head, --"

lead the reader to draw his/her own conclusions - which will depend on one's own experiences.

Some words leave clues for the reader. The  
continued on next  
booklet



line 2

"There's nothing on her bed but an old rag doll

And by its side a shoe:

suggest

~~give the impression~~ that Lulu might have left in a hurry. Also the word "free" in the line

"curtains flapping free".

give the impression that Lulu is free like the curtains. Furthermore, the line

"Why do the tear-drops fall"

symbolize the mother's sorrows and regret, which return make the reader sympathise with the mother.

To conclude, it can be seen that a successful narrative depends on its ability to entertain and involve the reader. The poem Streets of Laredo used an interesting theme, rhyme, and some powerful images to engage the reader. While, the poem Unidentified Flying Objects did that through its unconventional structure, authentic vocabulary and vivid imagery. Finally, the



poem What Has Happened to Lulu? employed  
questions for the reader to answer and interesting  
vocabulary to involve and entertain the reader.