

Wild Cherry

- by Nigel Jenkins -

Background information

As possible preparation, learners could be asked to think of a time when they have tried to impress someone - a friend or a potential partner - and have gone out of their way to make this good impression. (Even if they secretly know it may all be wasted effort.) What did you do? Are you prepared to admit it to others?

Activities

A

Clarifying exactly who is involved in the text is a good first step in many poems. As with other poems in this selection, starting with pronouns can be an effective strategy.

B and C

The suggestion of vertigo, and the effort made to select, collect and deliver the sprays, have implications for the strength of the relationship (on one side).

D

Learners can explore how far the repetition and language choices suggest underlying tensions in the relationship.

E and F

Language choice such as 'toss out', and making a link between the 'twigs' and 'ashes' etc., provide indirect evidence of his judgement on the state of the relationship now. Her attitude must be inferred from his choice of associations, and his prediction of what will happen when the blooms wither.