

Cecil Day-Lewis
Walking away
Some challenging questions!

Worksheet by: Rosann Tankard Grens High School
--

1. "It is eighteen years ago, almost to the day --
A sunny day with the leaves just turning,
The touch-lines new-ruled -- since I watched you play
Your first game of football."
 - Comment on the near precision of the poet's memory in his words, "It is eighteen years ago, almost to the day." (2)
 - Is there any significance to the poet's naming the season during which this event took place? (4)
 - What is the significance of the touch-lines having been "new ruled"? (4)

2. "Then, like a satellite
Wrenched from its orbit, go drifting away
Behind a scatter of boys."
 - What is a "satellite" and an "orbit"? (4)
 - Why does the poet refer to his son as being a "satellite"? (4)
 - Comment on the choice of the word "wrenched" rather than, say, "pulled away" or "attracted away". (4)
 - What is the implication of the words "go drifting away" to describe his son's action? (4)
 - Why are the boys referred to merely as "a scatter of boys"? (4)

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

3. What is the purpose of the poet's using the second person -- you / your -- throughout this poem? (4)

4. The poet appears to accept the fact that his son's moving away from him is natural and is something that must indeed happen. Yet he accepts this situation with a degree of reluctance.
 - What words and images in this poem reveal both these attitudes? (6)

<www.knowledge4africa.com>

This worksheet is copyrighted. No part of it may be copied or printed in any form whatever without the express permission in writing of the author. The sole exception is for non-profit educational purposes.