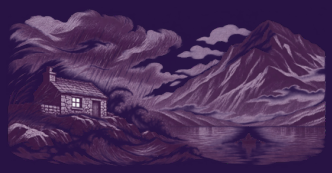
CLIMBING MY GRANDFATHER



Andrew Waterhouse

WHAT HAPPENS? A child's exploration of a grandfather becomes an imagined ascent.

BIG IDEA **Intimate observation turns a grandfather's ageing body into a landscape of adventure and security.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

"free"

Double meaning

The climb begins without equipment, suggesting both risk and trust.

"warm ice"

Oxymoron

A familiar body is made strange through an unexpected tactile comparison.

"summit"

Extended metaphor

The grandfather's head completes the imagined mountain ascent.

"good heart"

Literal and figurative

The final pulse connects bodily life with moral affection.

FORM

One 27-line stanza of free verse; an extended climbing metaphor sustains a continuous upward exploration.

CONTEXT

Waterhouse's poem imagines family intimacy through mountaineering language, combining a childlike scale with close sensory attention.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Follower: admiration. Mother, any distance: exploration and safety.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Brogues and clothes

ADVENTUROUS

The decision to climb makes an ordinary relative seem vast and worth exploring.

Hands and shoulder

CAREFUL AND TRUSTING

Worn skin and scars reveal history while also supplying secure holds.

Head and heart

PEACEFUL

The ascent ends in rest, warmth and confidence in the grandfather's goodness.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.

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