EDEN ROCK

Charles Causley



WHAT HAPPENS? A speaker imagines young parents calling from across a stream.

BIG IDEA **Precise family memories make an uncertain crossing feel both intimate and mysterious.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

“twenty-five”

Precise age

The father appears in youth rather than as an elderly parent.

“three suns”

Unreal light

The intensified brightness transforms an ordinary sky into a visionary setting.

“other bank”

Symbolic boundary

Physical distance suggests a possible threshold beyond the picnic scene.

“like this”

Ambiguity

The final phrase withholds a complete explanation and invites reflection.

FORM

Four quatrains lead to a tercet and an isolated final line; a calm first-person vision develops into an ambiguous ending.

CONTEXT

Causley draws on family memory. The stream can suggest a boundary between life and death, but the poem never names a single meaning.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Before You Were Mine: imagining young parents. Walking Away: separation and connection.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Parents and picnic

AFFECTIONATE AND PRECISE

Ages, clothing and household objects make the vision vividly particular.

Light and stream

DREAMLIKE

Ordinary recollection becomes less realistic as the parents beckon from another bank.

Last isolated line

SURPRISED AND CONTEMPLATIVE

The speaker acknowledges an unexpected experience without defining it.

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

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