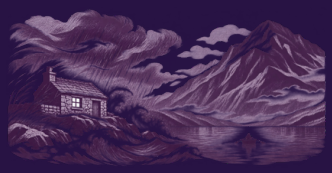
LETTERS FROM YORKSHIRE



Maura Dooley

WHAT HAPPENS? Correspondence connects people whose daily lives are physically far apart.

BIG IDEA **An ordinary exchange of letters makes different lives mutually accessible without erasing their distance.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

“singing”

Personification

Warming hands give physical work an unexpectedly joyful sensory quality.

“heartful”

Compound word

The speaker’s writing life is crowded with emotional and public concerns.

“air and light”

Metaphor

The letter carries an experience of the outdoor world.

“icy miles”

Setting and metaphor

Distance feels severe, making continued communication more valuable.

FORM

Five tercets in free verse; enjambment allows thought and communication to move across stanza boundaries.

CONTEXT

Dooley places contemporary writing and news alongside gardening and seasonal labour. The relationship need not be labelled romantic.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Sonnet 29: thought and presence. Follower: different relationships with rural work.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Garden and letter

WARMLY OBSERVANT

A seasonal sight prompts communication from the correspondent’s working day.

Different lives

QUESTIONING

The speaker briefly tests whether physical labour offers a more authentic life.

Shared news

CONNECTED

Separate homes remain separate, but words establish an imaginative meeting place.

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

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