

How does the writer convey ideas about a moment in time in the poem Blessing?

Context, Language,
Imagery, Form And
Structure

The poem Blessing is about a water pipe bursting in a poor area without enough water. The poet wants us to understand how important a thing as small as a pipe bursting could be for people less fortunate than ourselves, and how happy it can make them feel. The poem is called Blessing which links to how the water is a blessing to the people.

One way the writer tells us about the importance of the water is language. She makes an effective use of simile to emphasise how little water there usually is, for example, 'the skin cracks like a pod', this highlights how dry everything is without the water, it is also an onomatopoeia when it says cracks, which shows how everything is so dry it's crumbling like a seed pod would do. The poet also uses lots of metaphors to highlight the importance of the water, for example, 'silver crashes to the ground', this is a metaphor that shows that the water is really rare and valuable to the people, just like silver is rare and valuable. Finally, the poet emphasises the value and miracle of the water by repeatedly referencing God and other holy matters, this can be seen in many lines, one being 'the voice of a kindly god,' which shows the readers that the water is such a miracle it feels like something you have only heard of, therefore metaphor exaggerates the fact that it is like a miracle. And this link to God can also even be found in the title, 'blessing', and the line 'as the blessing sings' which shows again that the water is a gift so miraculous it must have come from God.

Another way the writer paints an image in our mind about the importance of the water is Imagery. The poet makes a successful use of description to create an image about how little water there is, for example at the beginning of the poem she uses the line, 'Imagine the drip of it, the small splash echo in a tin mug', this emphasises how little water there is as when we think of echoes we think of something small in a large open area, therefore linking to how little water there is in the mug, and using it as a tin mug uses onomatopoeia to help us imagine the small droplets of water going into the mug. Also in that line the word imagine shows that they rarely even get that much water, linking back to showing how little water they have. When the pipe bursts the writer uses imagery to show how lucky it was, this can be seen in the line 'Sometimes, the sudden rush of fortune. The municipal pipe bursts,' the way the writer said; sudden rush of fortune, shows us how lucky it is that the pipe burst, even though it happened so suddenly, and the word 'municipal' shows us that the pipe was not meant for them, it was meant for a nearby city, which helps us imagine how they are living in people's scraps, and how someone else's normal can be a huge excitement to someone less fortunate. Additional to this, the writer also uses lots of imagery to describe

the peoples excitement for the water, this is seen in the line, 'From the huts, a congregation', this line shows us that there are so many people gathering to get some water that it could form a congregation, linking to how excited people are about the water.

The final way the writer shows us the importance of the water is by structure and form. The poem is structured into many short lines in each stanza, for example before the pipe bursts, the first two stanzas are short and simple, which relates to the plainness of the area without water or food, however once the pipe bursts in the beginning of stanza three, the sentences pick up and get longer as the people in the poem get excited about the water. The writer also uses sentence structure towards the end of the poem when the people are running in and out their houses, trying to collect the water;

Every man and woman from the streets
butts in, with pots,
brass, copper, aluminium,
plastic buckets,
frantic hands,

This has a rhythm to it and shows the mayhem and how the people are so desperate to get the water, the phrases 'frantic' and 'butts in' shows that people are desperate to get the water, all their human consciousness of other people have gone, they have to get to the water.

So overall the writer uses Imagery, Language, Form and Structure to show the readers how important and rare the water is for the people, and how special the occurrence is.