Chainsaw Versus The Pampas Grass

-          ‘Versus’ Highlights a conflict right from the title/beginning between the man-made and the natural.

-          The poem is conversational with a mix of short and long sentences, informal tone and relaxed stanzaic form. There are 8 stanzas, without a pattern- suggesting the destructive nature of the chainsaw.

-          One similarity between the stanzas is that there is no enjambment between them; each one is contained within its own section with end-stopped lines. This could be seen as the control of humanity over natural form and structure with unnatural barriers

-          Poem of physical description, with vivid personification and a clear inference to gender conflicts. Chainsaw= masculine aggressive behaviour. Pampas Grass= decorative, gentle and feminine. Appears passive but by the end has a clear power shift. The grass flourishes ads the chainsaw is reduced to impotence.

-          Has a rhythmic tone, much like a conversation

-          Key themes of: power, conflict and gender.

Stanza1 is the awakening of the chainsaw. The object and its matchmaker are addressed with personification and substance. The first line includes a cesuric pause to highlight the importance of the objects. “quarter pint of engine-oil” already suggests masculine insatiable characteristics.

In stanza 2 the chainsaw is reconnected with the power supply. There are multiple uses of alliteration here to show connection “Double doors” “weightless wreckage.” The seasons are used here to signify an ominous presence encroaching. Violence is coming, as is winter. Militaristic and explosive imagery is used here to signify this “Powder from a keg” – There is a looming sense of danger.  The stanza finishes with violent diction of ‘gunned the trigger’, which depicts the war the chainsaw plans to wage with the natural world.

-          “It’s perfect disregard, it’s mood to tangle with cloth, or jewellery, or hair” The chainsaw is yet again personified, and the oxymoron amplifies its intentions. In addition, the enumeration of delicate objects again shows its intentions to destroy femininity.

-          The pampas grass appears unaware of what is to come, as it remains in the ‘warmth and light’ with its ‘ludicrous feathers and plumes’- This is highly suggestive of mans actions against mother nature. She never expected us to take from her. Political judgement of society.

-          The sibilance evokes a feeling of danger, like a snake. “The chainsaw seethed