

- Writing as a form of navigation

Childhood = local
Adulthood = global
→ a retreat to the local
via retreat to childhood

Water: fluidity, cleansing

WELL: diving into one's self

mountain in Greece
→ houses the 'Muses'
→ the past
Both personal + universal

not a strict rhyme scheme

autobiographical
Local Personal Helicon 1966
Global
for Michael Longley another poet

→ deliberate classical, greek mythological ALLUSION

↳ using the past to understand the present

RHYME

Sound-relates to the echoes

typical in Ireland PLACE

A As a child, they could not keep me from wells
B And old pumps with buckets and windlasses
A I loved the dark drop, the trapped sky, the smells
B Of waterweed, fungus and dank moss.

→ natural world
sensory language use
hauling machine on well

One, in a brickyard, with a rotted board top.
I savoured the rich crash when a bucket
Plummeted down at the end of a rope.
So deep you saw no reflection in it.

evoking smells + place
reflection caught in the water
onomatopoeia

* Things from the past come back + the past can reveal new things

to give fruit

A shallow one under a dry stone ditch
Eructified like any aquarium.
When you dragged out long roots from the soft mulch
A white face hovered over the bottom.

→ tradition/past
ghostly reflection - ghost of his past?

"word music"
Others had echoes, gave back your own call
With a clean new music in it. And one
Was scaresome, for there, out of fern and tall
Foxgloves, a rat clapped across my reflection.

darkness of digging into past, negative things when reflecting

back to present
Now to pry into roots, to finger slime,
To stare, big-eyed Narcissus, into some spring
Is beneath all adult dignity. I rhyme
To see myself, to set the darkness echoing.

→ ALLUSION - past
poetry allows him to return to past in a way world represents personal growth

interact w/ past in an invasive way

* assertion at end

given by harsh language + strong verbs
* poetry enables him to explore such as in childhood

acceptable for an adult

* Reflections motif

* less political

- reflecting on the past

- wells are reflective: an effective metaphor

Echoes

fragments spread out over time
→ he explores these fragments of himself in the past