

happiest
its fading

Afternoons

Summer is fading: - explanation is pessimistic

The leaves fall in ones and twos - gently fading

From trees bordering

The new recreation ground. - new, but same old situation

In the hollows of afternoons

Young mothers assemble

At swing and sandpit

Setting free their children.

empty

5

robotic

stiltance - contrast to roboticism

unintelligent

not supporting

10

Behind them, at intervals,

Stand husbands in skilled trades,

An estateful of washing,

And the albums, lettered

Our Wedding, lying

Near the television:

15

Before them, the wind

Is ruining their courting-places

Enjambement -> Perhaps to represent a double meaning. (unhappy marriage)

chaotic

technology more important

all the same

That are still courting-places

(But the lovers are all in school), - passing of time - patterned lives/behaviour

And their children, so intent on

20

Finding more unripe acorns, - still innocent + eager/inquisitive

Expect to be taken home.

Their beauty has thickened. - single sentence - more needed to maintain image

Something is pushing them

To the side of their own lives. - lost their spark/soul

PHILIP LARKIN

-> misogynist

-> racist

Dad was a nazi sympathiser

Hope for children is lost, as repetition of generations into the trap of domestication is inevitable.

3 equal verses. = 8 lines each.

= consistent passing of time - melancholic tone

Melancholy