

▼ THEME	▼ EXAMPLE	▼ COMMENT
War	'and often dodging snipers on the way'	Shows that, even while doing an ordinary task, there is a real risk of being killed. This highlights the reality of living in a war zone.
Deprivation		
Love		

SETTING AND EVENTS

- Think about the setting and the events of the poem. What can you say about the setting and the events? Do they seem unusual to you?

To help you understand what is happening, choose some of the poet's observations and explain what they can tell you about Sarajevo and its people when the poem was written. One example has been done for you using the following table.

▼ HARRISON'S OBSERVATION	▼ WHAT THIS TELLS YOU ABOUT THE CITY AND PEOPLE
'to get the refills they wheel home in prams'	Shows how the Sarajevans improvise to cope with the situation.

The poem describes some unlikely-sounding events: at night, in bomb-damaged Sarajevo, young people from different ethnic groups move around the city and boys meet girls, despite the danger and darkness. However, it also hints at more violent events.

The poem also shows the **paradoxes** of the time – for example, how ethnic conflict disappears at night; how romance can burst into life in terrible conditions; how gentle feelings can exist in the very place where people had been killed by shells earlier in the war.

SUBJECT VOCABULARY

paradox a situation (or piece of writing) which contains strongly contrasting elements or meanings