

## KEY POINT

The poem draws on the tension in India between western and eastern culture.

The poem has a number of themes:

- cultural identity
- a sense of belonging
- feelings of loss
- the known and the unknown
- the importance of people's appearance
- the contrast between east and west.

Copy and complete the following table, finding examples from the poem that relate to its themes and adding your thoughts about how the selected example illustrates the theme.

▼ THEME	▼ EXAMPLE	▼ COMMENT
Cultural identity	'I'll lean across a country'	She feels the pull of India and her Asian heritage even when back in England.
A sense of belonging		
Feelings of loss		
The known and the unknown		
The importance of people's appearance		
The contrast between east and west		

The language that Alvi uses is mostly quite straightforward, but the poem includes some words that may be less familiar. Copy and complete the following table, giving the meaning of the words or phrases that are listed.

▼ TEXT	▼ MEANING
'bazaar'	A market place.
'icing my hand'	
'their Western perms'	
'canopy me'	
'I have new brown veins'	
'amber bird'	