

dead bodies contrasts clearly to Agnes Grozier Herbertson's description of a soldier and how young he was, using language such as 'With his bright, bright eyes and his cheeks all red' to create a clear picture of how 'Fair and healthy and long of limb' boys were, before events that Pat Barker has described start to morph them. Agnes Grozier Herbertson's poem 'The Seed-Merchant's Son' describes how the young boy thrust his school books into the cupboard, which 'scarcely had time to gather dust' before he 'Died in the war....' This is ironic as this poem, set at the beginning of the war, is describing the school boy before the war turned him into the 'fossilized schoolboy' that Pat Barker now sees in 'Regeneration' which was set from August 1917 until November 1917- towards the end of the war. The structure of the poem is a thirteen stanza poem, with each stanza consisting of two lines. This simple structure gives a sense of purity and bareness, perhaps reflecting how Agnes Grozier Herbertson saw all boys before the war turned them into the 'row of figures in wheelchairs' that Sarah Lumb discovers in 'Regeneration'. Parenthood is unmistakable in 'The Seed-Merchant's Son', and this time it is a case of parent being lost and alone without their child to nurture, 'The Seed-Merchant has not his son, His dear, his loved, his only one.' This poem demonstrates that even though most adults have children, and during the war many will have lost theirs, 'Little there seemed to say indeed' that could comfort a man 'Old to have fathered a son so young'. Parenthood, although an obvious link between adults, still leaves River's and the narrator of 'The Seed-Merchant's Son' at a loss of what to say when boys, so young, are forced to either die or turn into men they cannot control.

Parenthood is explored at several points throughout the novel, and many of these points revolve around the relationships between the mute Billy Prior and his mother, his father and Dr Rivers. Prior, one of the minority of fictional characters in the novel 'Regeneration', suffers from mutism and asthma. River's relationship with Prior throughout the novel can at every point reflect a father and son relationship, and it becomes clear that the reason for this is that Billy Prior's father has emotionally bullied and abused his son while he was growing up and Prior instinctively needs a father figure to guide and reassure him through his regeneration. The reader meets Prior's father in Chapter Six, where negativity and shame are evident from the beginning of the father presentation. Language such as 'stool-arsed jack' to describe his son, and doubt that his son's mutism is real 'comes when it's convenient' are mere