

The imagery used when talking of 'dark towns' on the 'horizon' represents the perspective of the couple. Seeing the darkness could allude to arguments or problems within the marriage as well as loneliness at the feeling of oppression from the way they are described as a 'heap.' It gives the impression that even nature is leaving the couple to their own devices to solve whatever problems they are having, 'none of this cares for us.' This also shows that the narrator does not know why their marriage has failed, 'why at this unique distance from isolation' where they are so close to each other at yet they can feel the distance almost as if it were tangible.

He doesn't understand why the words are not coming to them, whether there is nothing left to say or even if he ever meant the 'true and kind' words he once spoke to his wife. Was their marriage based on a lie? This poem offers no answers and this allows people to relate to this situation better and draw their own conclusions. There is no blanket answer to why a marriage fails, because each relationship is different and has its own problems. This poem is Larkin's a wake-up call for those who are falling into silence, warning them before it is too late to make things better.

The use of the caesura in the third stanza is used to emphasize the point that they are alone in their relationship and their troubles, 'None of this cares for us.' The use of enjambment in the sentence that follows is also used for dramatic effect, following a short concise sentence with a much longer one highlights further the importance of the initial sentence as well as making more of a lasting impression with the final sentence of the poem. 'At this unique distance from isolation it becomes still more difficult to find words once true and kind, or not untrue and not unkind.'

As well as syntax, the rhyming scheme changes in the last stanza, throughout the first three stanzas there is a rhyming pattern of ABA CAC DCD however in the final stanza it becomes EEE which shows the importance of these lines. The final thought in Larkin's poems often summarizes the whole feel of the piece and in this case the realization is that the relationship has gone so far that any kind of conversation is difficult to maintain, it shows the juxtaposition between the start of the marriage to the end, from conversations in bed being natural and honest to time passing silently and awkwardly as all the love and honesty has gone from the relationship.