

How does the poet convey emotion in Continuum?

When first read the poem can seem to convey a rather negative emotion and is negative of the "washed out creation" which shows how he feels that the whole world and everything in it is not quite as good as it should be and has lost something. This is emphasised the creation is said to be "a dark place". Dark places normally have connotations of sadness and other negative emotions and "creation" is normally used to describe the world in a good way, so this shows quite how negative the author must feel as something that is typically good and full of complex beauty seems to him like a dark place that has had all happiness washed out of it.

This idea of negativity is developed near the end of the poem as the author leaves the "washed out creation" and closes "the door behind" to separate himself from the negativity of the rest of the world. This sense of loneliness is also created earlier as he steps "into the washed out creation" and so implies that he was not a part of it but and does not belong in it. Then when he has had enough of it he turns and shuts "the door behind on the author" as he is leaving the creation and leaving the creative part of himself outside separated even from himself. This is emphasised by the enjambment which separates the author from the door he has closed.

At the beginning of the poem the author makes it clear that he is "talking about [himself]" which gives the poem a different emotion as it is showing how it is aware that it is a poem and shows how the author is really just showing how he is finding it hard to write any good poetry, which is ironic as in this process he is writing a poem. The author shows how he is not able to come up with ideas by saying how "It's impossible [...] to think thoughts" which at first seems contradictory as he must be having thoughts if he is thinking. However in this sense "thoughts" does not mean all thoughts but only the correct sort of thoughts the poet thinks he should be thinking. This idea that the poem is really about his inability to write is developed further by the word "musey" which does not fit into the meaning of the rest of the line but is more like a note to the author showing he is unsure if "dusted" is the right word to use. This shows that he is anxious about whether the poem is good enough.

To show how hard he is finding writing the poem most of the stanzas are in enjambment except for the first, the fourth and the last. Both the first and fourth end very bathetically as the beginning of the stanzas are very poetic and flow but then the last lines suddenly end in a very unpoetic way. An example of this is the end of the fourth stanza which is talking about "the wind, or something." This short phrase at the end is in contrast with the the rest of the stanza and shows how he cannot think of anything to write that is suitably poetic.

Throughout the poem Curnow demonstrates his own feelings of separation from creation, and creativity and his frustration at his inability to write good poetry. The feeling of separation and the idea that the whole of creation is not providing enough inspiration are shown directly by the poems content whereas the more important, in my opinion, idea of his inability to write is less clear at first. In many ways the poem has an ironic feel to it as he is writing a poem about how he cannot write a poem.