

2009763

My chosen poem is 'One Art' by Elizabeth Bishop. After reading the poems twice each, I was drawn to 'One Art' as I personally connected with this poem the most. The poem's central theme is 'losing' and how it is not 'hard to master', where Bishop looks at losing as an 'art'. Before reading this poem, I had never anticipated to view losing in this way. Therefore, not only did I find this poem thought provoking to my preconceptions but also eye opening and comical and this became evident as I started to read the poem aloud.

For memorising the poem, I chose to practice a stanza at a time. From this I understood the meaning of each stanza and viewed them each as one part to which I would then pause after. After learning the first stanza, I chose to learn the second by reciting the previous, first, and then the second. I used this method for the whole poem, so by the time I was practicing the last stanza, I was fairly confident with the ones previous. To further aid my memorisation, I also wrote out the poem in order to remember specific word order.

The poem focuses on experiencing losing in order to keep your lifestyle healthy, where Bishop addresses losing as an 'art' and that we should accept losses that we face in our lives no matter what they are. Whilst the tone appears comical, as Bishop addresses how we should be content with losing, it also has a deeper tone of inspiration, that we should use losing to achieve our goals. Therefore, when reciting this poem, I chose to speak it colloquially and rather fast, as I felt like the poem conveyed similarities to that of a speech. This idea came from 'Lose something every day. Accept the fluster' where the caesura indicates how the speaker is developing what they are saying through their thought process. The alliterative eye rhyme of 'losing farther losing faster' also indicates how Bishop believes in using losing to one's advantage, hence why when performing the poem, I decided to put emphasis upon this line.

Moreover, I chose to stay true to the poem and insert pauses where lines stopped, punctuation was and where stanzas ended. I chose this as it best represents the ABA ABAA rhyme