

**“Whether motivated by *need, wonder or curiosity*, discovery has the power to be *transformative*.”**

**How accurately does this statement reflect the view of discovery explored in your prescribed text and ONE other related texts of your own choosing.”**

Discoveries shape individual’s beliefs about the inequalities in their world, through their curiosity and wonder to see beyond their experiences, thus leading to a transformation of the mind. In The Motorcycle Diaries, Guevara’s exposure to poverty and social conditions are vastly different to his own challenges, his ideological beliefs. Guevara’s confronting discovery of class as a restrictive social force is realised by experiencing the inevitable exploitation of the proletariat by the middle classes in the capitalist system. This reflects the influence of Marx’s writings on his changing understandings of the world. The simile “*We were like demigods to these simple people,*” emphasises the inequalities between the educated bourgeoisie and the poor communities that they encounter, and the use of first person in “we,” as separated from the “*simple people,*” highlights the disparate worldviews and the reverence that Che and Alberto are met with. Furthermore, the metaphoric image of “*distended nostrils to the harsh inhale the poverty with sadistic intensity,*” conveys the confronting experiences of Guevara’s exposure to the harsh realities of life for the working class. As well as discovering the inequity of the world, Guevara must reconceive himself within society in light of this knowledge evoked by his curiosity, and thus the discovery is not just societal but personal throughout the transformation of their mind.

Whilst Sylvia Plath similarly examines discovery of the disparities of the harsh nature of the world through her curiosity and wonder in which her world works. In Plath’s poem Mirror published in 1971, focuses on the negative experiences in the world in which she lived, as the mirror describes its existence and the owner of the mirror ends up growing older and uglier as the mirror watches. The subjects of the poem are time and appearance, where the persona discovers that due to the stereotypical nature of a woman needing to be perfect, it has blocked their sense of identity. The personification, “*Whatever I see I swallow immediately,*” emphasises the harsh nature of beauty and the expectation of women, the persona struggle with the loss of their beauty. The older they became the harder it is to follow the expectations of a perfect appearance, as the persona requires the mirror to provide herself with an objective, unadulterated reflection of self. The simile “*like a terrible fish,*” represents the unavoidable expectations of beauty and as the persona observes her mind, her soul and psyche, she is bombarded with the harsh disparities within her world. A self discovery within her mind allowing her to break free from the stereotypical nature, allowing her experiences to wonder. As well as discovering the inequity of the world, the persona comes to realise that the world in which they live is powered by competition and high expectations, thus making the discovery personal as it transforms their mind.