

***“Discoveries can be evoked by necessity and planning, yet reveal surprising consequences.”***

***How is this statement reflected in your prescribed text and ONE other text of your own choosing?***

Discovery is an experience inherent to humanity, and however, the nature of it, in terms of its catalysts and outcome differ for individuals. Sometimes discoveries are evoked by necessity and planning, and yet can reveal surprising consequences. Some of these consequences may impact the individual immediately, as seen in Rosemary Dobson’s poem *Painter of Antwerp* and Nick Baker and Tristan Klein’s short film animation *Punctured*. In these texts, their discoveries motivated by necessity and planning lead to quickly lead to unforeseen, yet dramatic changes in their lives. Other consequences may not take immediate effect, and may have influence in an individual’s later life. This idea is explored in Dobson’s poem *Traveller’s Tale* where the persona’s physical voyage leads him to the spectacular discovery of new lands, and yet, unexpectedly ends up as a mere storyteller later in life.

In *Painter of Antwerp*, the persona’s planned discovery of Italy’s art and culture immediately leads to him to two unexpected consequences – the revelation of the odd, materialistic nature of Italy and his rejection of this lifestyle. Firstly, in Lines 3-7 of the poem (“... *all the odd adventures - the bear in the way, the painter at Padua// in a great plumed hat, full of queer notions*”), the persona lists all the fantastical things he discovered in Italy. This extensive listing conveys this idea that the persona overwhelmed by wonder and surprise and hence exhibits the unexpected nature of this revelation. The persona’s decision to reject this lifestyle is expressed when “*at the top of the Alps, he pause[s] perhaps, looking backwards*”. The combination of “perhaps” of which is low modality and “looking backwards” work together to create a sense of hesitancy. This uncertainty stems from the unanticipated nature of this decision – he did not set out to Italy, expecting to reject its lifestyle and return home so soon. Hence, this poem demonstrates how discoveries planned by individuals lead to unforeseen outcomes that immediately impact an individual’s life.

Furthermore, *Punctured* also explores immediate unexpected consequences of discoveries that are evoked by necessity, as the central character embarks on a trip into his past out of desperation to escape his mundane life. Here he discovers a nameless girl and is immediately confronted with the surprising realisation that he is not alone in the world and has someone who supports him. The tracking shot of him falling from the sky gives a realistic portrayal of the situation and creates a sense of inevitability that he is going to die. This then allows for his rescue by the girl to be completely unanticipated. In addition, following his rescue, there is an extreme close up, of which his face fills the entire frame; this captures the intensity of his shock after realising that he is not alone. Ultimately, his journey into the past and discovery of the girl, leads him to the revelation that there is someone who cares about him - an outcome, unpredictable to both himself and the audience. Thus, this supports the notion that discoveries evoked by necessity often lead to surprising consequences that instantly change the course of one’s life.

Some discoveries motivated by planning and necessity may also result in unforeseen consequences, though these may emerge some time after the discovery. This is an idea represented in *Traveller’s Tale* where the persona’s physical journey leads him to discover new lands. However, despite the grandeur of these discoveries, he ends up simply being known as a story teller in a bar. In the poem, the audience is able to grasp the greatness of

the discovery. For example, the hyperbole used in “...*the whales that stretched the lengths of continents*” creates a sense of wonder and fantasy relating to the locating of these lands. The persona also clearly conveys his role in his discovery – “*I and Columbus, we stride the deck.*” The order of words used here is indicative of the persona’s belief of his major contribution and hence foretells the prestige and praise that awaits him. However, at the end of the poem it is revealed that he is merely telling someone the story of his spectacular discovery - “...*that’s the best way. You’ll not mistake it, sir. One for the road? Your health, then. Down the hatch.*”. The abrupt change in tone from fantastical and excited to conversational, reflects the surprise and unexpected nature of this outcome.

Despite the timing of these consequences, all of these texts demonstrate how discoveries motivated by planning and necessity can lead to unanticipated results. In *Painter of Antwerp* and *Punctured*, these consequences are immediate and are communicated through the unexpected actions and emotions of the individuals’ following their discoveries. In *Traveller’s Tale*, the consequences occur later on but are still just as apparent as demonstrated through the revelation at the end of the poem.

