**Read ‘The Basics’ about *Kamikaze,* then re-read the poem before answering the following questions:**

1. Look back to other poems in the collection where poets have chosen to write in stanzas that contain the same number of lines (particular *Remains* and *War Photographer*). What do the poems have in common, and why might Garland have chosen this form in this poem?
2. Kamikaze pilots were often trained and prepared much like Samurai soldiers before them. Research both and make some brief comparisons between the two. Does this add to your understanding of the poem in any ways?
3. How does Garland present the pilot in the first stanza, and how does this change later on in the poem? Back up your ideas with short quotations from the poem.
4. Why do you think the pilot’s daughter is ‘recounting’ the scene to her own children? Why might she need to explain it?
5. In stanzas two and three, Garland uses similes to describe the shoals of fish. Copy these down. Comment on what these have in common, and why she uses these particular images, given the subject of the poem.
6. Throughout stanzas two to five, Garland makes many references to colour and light. Try to find and explain these references by setting them out in a table like the one below. One reference has been written in for you.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quotation / Image** | **Colour or Light?** | **Comment** |
| *A green-blue translucent sea* | both | Description has calm, serene feel; memories are clear and pure – ‘translucent’ pure and innocent as a child |
| *…the dark shoals of fishes* |  |  |

1. Find and list any references to safety and danger in the poem. Why might this be an important theme given what the kamikaze pilot was setting out to do?
2. **IN PAIRS**, discuss why the Kamikaze pilot becomes an outcast with his friends and family upon his return? How does this relate to the last line of the poem?
3. Why do you think that Garland chooses to switch to the direct voice of the daughter at the end of the poem, rather than throughout? What impact does this have on the reader?

**EXTENSION: In the poem, what are the connections between the natural world and the story of the kamikaze pilot’s family? Why is the past and the present so important in the poem? Write down your ideas, and perhaps, with these themes in mind, go on to make some links with other poems in the cluster.**



*poem by poem* QUESTIONS

***Kamikaze***byBeatrice Garland