

# Four Bananas

Scrape margarine across eight slices  
of white bread, raspberry jam and Nutella  
and Marmite and jam again. Eight sandwiches -  
two each. Cut and wrap. It's not enough.  
5 Add four bananas that will come home bruised  
and blackened mid-afternoon. Seal in four  
plastic lunch-boxes. It's not enough. A thump  
of backpacks and a wrenching of zips,  
10 this daughter smiling and this daughter  
sullen, and these two in a stumbling panic -  
Don't slam the door, don't leave me here  
beside myself – these two, my hatchlings,  
my little ones, are gone, fallen through  
15 that bright rectangle to where the world  
waits with its claws and teeth, its every kind  
of sharp and sudden thing...  
I would halt traffic to let you pass,  
I would snarl and swipe at the dogs  
that bound from driveways, I would  
20 smooth and make safe and contain but all  
I am is here, I am always here – I wipe away  
the slopped cereal, inhale the sour smell  
of your rooms as I make your beds,  
the sheets in which the grains of your hot,  
25 dry bodies threshed all night already cooling.

– Tim Uppetton

Tim Uppetton, 'Turbine, 2008, A Journal of New Zealand Writing'.

[Http://www.nzetc.org/iiml/turbine/Turbi08/poetry/](http://www.nzetc.org/iiml/turbine/Turbi08/poetry/)

## Question One

In your own words, describe ONE aspect of character or action used in lines 1-15 to help the reader understand the writer's feelings towards his children.

a)

i) Aspect of setting or action

ii) Example

iii) Explain why this aspect of character or action that you described in (i) helps the reader understand the writer's feelings towards his children.

b)

Explain how this aspect of character or action is supported in lines 1-15 by other aspects such as structure or style, to help the reader understand the writer's feelings towards his children.

Support your answer with examples from the text.

c) Look at the text as a whole

Explain how the writer helps the reader understand his feelings towards his children in the whole extract. Support with details from the text.

In your answer, you could cover some of the following aspects:

- Imagery
- ideas
- structure
- narrative point-of-view
- text conventions of fiction writing

[illegible]