

Unseen - Poetry | Sample Answer

Do you think Paul Durcan uses language effectively in his poem, 'Caught Out'? Explain your answer with reference to any two examples chosen from the poem.

(Question 2, 2019)

I think Paul Durcan uses language effectively in this poem.

The first example of this effective language is in the line "two black eyes peer up at me". This symbolises the lamb's innocence. It shows the lamb's inferiority in this situation as the poet says "peer up at me". The image shown through this is a small, innocent lamb looking up at a human. Subconsciously, we determine the taller one looking down as the one with superiority in the situation. This establishes a relationship as we now see the lamb as innocent, and this was intended by the poet in his language.

The second example of effective language in this poem is the line "I feel as guilty as if caught out by my grand-daughter telling her a lie". This line reveals that the poet most likely intends on slaughtering the lamb, as he says "guilty". The comparison using his granddaughter shows his kind heart and regret of what he must do.