

ONE SHEET REVISION

'Living Space' by Imtiaz Dharker

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

Annotate the poem with points you can remember from your initial study:

There are just not enough
straight lines. That
is the problem.
Nothing is flat
or parallel. Beams
balance crookedly on supports
thrust off the vertical.
Nails clutch at open seams.
The whole structure leans dangerously
10 towards the miraculous.

Into this rough frame,
someone has squeezed
a living space

and even dared to place
15 these eggs in a wire basket,
fragile curves of white
hung out over the dark edge
of a slanted universe,
gathering the light
into themselves,
as if they were
the bright, thin walls of faith.

Complete the following questions on context:

- 1) Why is it important to know that Dharker is a British poet who was born in Pakistan and raised in Glasgow?
- 2) There is no specific city mentioned in the poem. Why is this important?
- 3) How is this shown in the poem?

Complete each analytical verb with a different idea:

Imtiaz Dharker may have written the poem:

to criticise

to teach

to warn

to reveal the importance of

to celebrate

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Annotate the following quotations by answering the questions for each:

- 1) What does the line mean?
- 2) What does the line suggest?
- 3) How has Dharker used language to present poverty in a developing country?

*'There are just not enough
straight lines.'*

*'Nothing is flat
or parallel.'*

*'Into this rough frame,
someone has squeezed'*

*'as if they were
the bright, thin walls of faith.'*

How has Dharker used language to present poverty in a developing country?

Answer in full sentences.