

a) Hardi starts the poem with 'I will inherit my mother's kitchen.' It is a statement rather than an introduction evoking curiosity in the reader. She ~~we~~ states an oxymoron in the glasses 'tall and lean.', 'short and fat' and calls the plates 'ugly'. As the words 'various sets' is used, the reader gets an impression that Hardi thinks her mother is a hoarder, even with the line 'cups bought in a rush'. The end of the stanza ends ~~positively~~ on a pessimistic view, 'Soon all of this will be yours' as though her mother is going to die soon. It is in the second stanza that we learn what has happened to her mother. As she states her mother 'is planning another escape' back home, we learn that she has moved a couple of times. Hardi ~~we~~ puts 'starting from scratch' on a different line from line 11 to show that it is a different thought from her mother being excited about something regardless of her age. 'It is her ninth time,' is a mono-syllabic phrase ~~emphas~~ highlighting how she knows her mother 'is a refugee, running all the time. It is an odd phrase like the first line of the poem, blunt and emotionless. As it is in a sentence on its own, this draws the reader's attention to it. As Hardi knows the reader has an idea of what her mother has gone through,

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She goes into more detail, evoking sadness in the last stanza. 'She never talks about her lost furniture,' shows that Hardi knows her mother has had to move so much she can't go back to a place when she has started again eight times so far. 'She never feels regret for things,' highlights that Hardi knows her mother is a strong woman, able to deal with the disasters she has gone through effectively. The vine in the front garden brings emotions in the reader and Hardi herself as she talks about the grapes. As grapes ~~can~~ can be made into wine, the reader's mind goes to a family scene at the table, where wine would be poured and grapes eaten together, yet she has had to leave them behind as they were at her first home, that she is going back to yet the trees would have been destroyed as she has had to leave when her place was destroyed. The realisation is shown where she knows that she 'will never inherit my mother's trees.' ~~this shows how she~~ The enjambement of the poem shows how this is a story of her mother's life. ~~Hardi~~ Hardi knows the kitchen is hers, as it is very important in South Asian cultures and is happy to receive it, yet feels sadness for her trees.

bii) Comparing 'Our Town with the Whole of India!' with 'My Mother's Kitchen.'

'Our Town' shows England as a place where the colourfulness of India is seeping through, 'Our parades, clad in cloak-orange' shows that the poem is about community, as the word 'our'

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is repeated several times throughout the poem. Nagra explores the idea of Indian culture throughout ~~the~~ this England town, contrasting English tradition with Indian culture, 'Vasaihi over Easter.', 'Oyy Fawkes Diwali', 'My Mothers Kitchen' explores the idea of ~~two~~ two people never being attached to one place, moving many times. The poem is very personal as Hardi is describing her mother's attitude to life, 'never feels regret for things,' and how her mother is excited when faced with moving and starting again, only because her real home where she grew up is safe to go back to. 'Our Town...' is filled with colourful and busy imagery, 'bhangra beats slam...', 'Sitar shimmerings drip...'. Nagra emphasizes that this town is for the Indian families in England, how the meat counter is 'beefless' line 21, as ~~the~~ members of the Hindu community do not eat cow meat. The imagery of the vegetables and fruit is colourful, 'Sunshined with mango...' whereas 'my mothers kitchen' doesn't have the colourfulness of 'our town.' The fruit mentioned is the grapes, emphasizing family rather than a whole community. 'Our Town' is in one stanza, whereas 'My mothers kitchen' is in three. 'Our Town' is in one stanza, filled with enjambement emphasizing how many different things there are in this place. It ~~has~~ has so many different scenes, the reader can imagine them going past in their heads whereas the three in my mothers kitchen make the reader think about the message of the poem, feeling pity and comparing ~~the~~.

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themselves to Hardi's mother, ~~it~~ as she has had to pack up and move several times. 'Our town' recognises the British influence on this Asian influenced town, 'posse brightens on park-shots of Bacardi - waxing for the bronze eyelids of girls.' Showing the alcohol ~~has~~ has influenced members of the town. There is a lot of alliteration used in the poem 'frying flamingo' to emphasize the bright colour of the sweets, 'Sponging swans' highlighting how the swans aren't fed bread, only chapattis. There isn't obvious alliteration in 'My mother's kitchen', only 'starting from scratch,' which is sibilance to emphasize that her mother is starting ~~on~~ a new beginning, which we later find out has been happening regularly. The opposites in 'Our town' compliment each other well, describing how British Asians see the places, whereas there is only opposites describing the glasses in my mother's kitchen. 'My mother's kitchen' describes a strong woman viewed by her western brought up daughters, whereas 'Our Town' describes a busy, contrasting place of community.

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