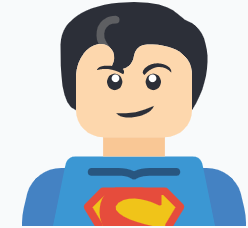
**Superman and Paula Brown’s New Snowsuit**

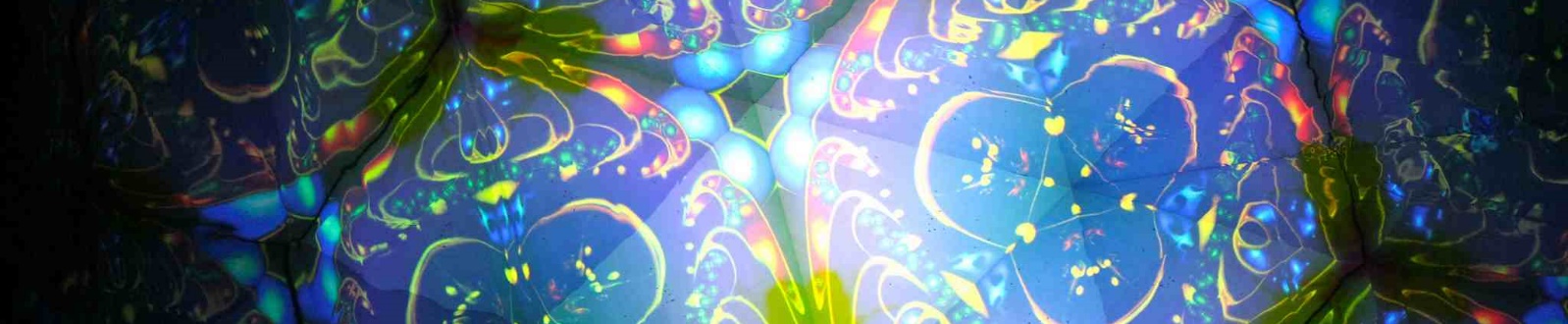
Sylvia Plath





**Paragraph 1**

1. What do you learn about Paula?
2. What does the ‘kaleidoscope’ metaphor suggest about the narrator’s outlook on life?



**Paragraph 2**

1. What are the ‘moving beacons’ on the runway?
2. How is the act of kneeling by the west window connected to the metaphor about the airport being Mecca?



**Paragraph 3**

1. What does the ‘technicolour dreams’ metaphor suggest about narrator’s childhood?
2. Why does the narrator compare herself to Icarus?



**Paragraph 4**

1. What does the verb ‘invading’ suggest about the presence of Superman in the narrator’s dreams?
2. What does the verb ‘roaring’ suggest about the way in which Superman moves?



**Review Task**

* List five adjectives to describe the narrator and find supporting evidence.

**Paragraph 6**

1. Which words and phrases make the narrator’s school seem particularly dull?
2. How does the description of the school contrast to the imaginary world of the narrator’s dreams?



**Paragraph 7**

1. Which words and phrases make the narrator’s and her two friends seem like outsiders?
2. What does the phrase ‘sallow mamma’s boy’ suggest about Sheldon Fein?



**Paragraph 11**

1. What does the verb ‘seeping’ suggest about the perceived threat of war?
2. Why does Mrs Fein grow ‘thin’ and ‘pale’?



**Paragraph 12**

1. Why does nobody appear to like Paula Brown?
2. How is the tone in this paragraph different to the tone of the opening paragraph?



**Review Task**

* List five adjectives to describe the mood of the story and find supporting evidence.

**Paragraph 14**

1. Which details indicate that Paula Brown’s snowsuit is expensive?
2. How do we know that Pauls is proud of it?



**Paragraph 17**

1. What is suggested by the laughs of the Japanese soldiers?
2. What details show the narrator is shocked at what she has seen?



**Paragraph 18**

1. What does the verb ‘sprang’ suggest about the narrator’s troubled memories about the film?
2. Why is the narrator’s inability to imagine Superman saving the day particularly significant?



**Paragraph 19**

1. How is the relationship between the narrator and Paula presented?
2. How does Plath give prominence to the presence of the oil slick on the road?



**Review Task**

* Make list of the contrasts you can spot between the first half and the second half of the story so far.

**Paragraph 22**

1. What mood is conveyed by the silence of the children as they watch Paula fall into the oil slick?
2. What does the ‘dull, green light of later afternoon’ reflect?



**Paragraph 23**

1. What is emphasised by the ‘black cat’s fur’ simile?
2. What is Paula ‘searching for’ in the aftermath of the fall?



**Paragraph 27**

1. What is suggested by the narrator’s emphatic denial?
2. How is the narrator’s confusion highlighted?



**Paragraph 42**

1. How do the colours used in the final paragraph contrast to the colours used in the first?
2. What does the narrator mean when she talks about ‘the real world’?



**Review Task**

* Make a list of adjectives that describe the narrator’s mood at the end of the story.