

Songs of Ourselves

Poetry

Volume 1

Part 4



Add your analysis of
language, structure
and form here



'The Planners'

By Boey Kim Cheng



They plan. They build. All spaces are gridded,
filled with permutations of possibilities.

The buildings are in alignment with the roads
which meet at desired points

linked by bridges all hang
in the grace of mathematics.

They build and will not stop.

Even the sea draws back
and the skies surrender.

Add your analysis of
language, structure
and form here



'The Planners'

By Boey Kim Cheng



They erase the flaws,
the blemishes of the past, knock off
useless blocks with dental dexterity.

All gaps are plugged
with gleaming gold.

The country wears perfect rows
of shining teeth.

Anaesthesia, amnesia, hypnosis.

They have the means.

They have it all so it will not hurt,
so history is new again.

The piling will not stop.

The drilling goes right through
the fossils of last century.

But my heart would not bleed
poetry. Not a single drop
to stain the blueprint
of our past's tomorrow.

'The Planners'
Additional Notes / Analysis



A large rectangular area enclosed by a dashed border, containing 20 horizontal lines for writing notes or analysis.

'The Planners' question prompts

Group 1 Questions	Notes
1. What is the effect of the repetition in line 1?	
2. What is the effect of the alliteration in line 2?	
3. How is enjambment used from line 3-5?	
4. What is the effect of the personification in line 9?	

Group 2 Questions	Notes
1. Which lines are the longest? Why?	
2. How has an oxymoron been used in the final stanza?	
3. What is the effect of using the 3 rd person plural pronoun 'they' throughout the poem?	
4. What are the connotations of 'flaws' and 'blemishes'? How has the poet used these words?	

'The Planners' question prompts

Group 3 Questions	Notes
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Which lines / phrases reflect or suggest the following. Why? How?<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. We have become desensitized to city developments and the progress made in this area.b. The past and present have merged to form a new city.2. What is the extended metaphor that has been used in the poem? What is the effect?	

Group 4 Questions	Notes
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Why is this poem written in free verse? How does this reinforce the poet's ideas?2. At what point does the poem change from 3rd to 1st person? What is the effect?3. What is the effect of the irregular line lengths?4. What is the effect of the irregular stanza lengths?	