

Copy these annotations into your anthology:

Homecoming Comforting sounding title

Think, two things on their own and both at once. Reminds us of a couple

The first, that exercise in trust, where those in front

stand with their arms spread wide and free-fall Childhood

backwards, blind, alliteration (vulnerability) and those behind take all the

weight. Metaphor for the responsibility we take for our loved ones

The second, one canary-yellow cotton jacket Evokes childhood

on a cloakroom floor, uncoupled from its hook, Reminds us of

relationships again

becoming scuffed and blackened underfoot. Half-rhyme Back home

the very model of a model of a mother, yours, puts Sounds mocking –

her mother is doing what she thinks is right, but it isn't.

two and two together, makes a proper fist of it deals with it clumsily –

also has connotations of aggression.

and points the finger. Temper, temper. Common phrases used to remind

us this is just a normal family. Makes us think of our own

arguments Questions

in the house. You seeing red. Blue murder. Using bright colours to make

argument vivid. Bed.

Then midnight when you slip the latch and sneak
no further than the phonebox at the corner of the street;
I'm waiting by the phone, although it doesn't ring **He places himself in
her memory to make it more comforting, as his girlfriend will be able to
get security from the idea he is there.**

because it's sixteen years or so before we'll meet.

Retrace that walk towards the garden gate; **Asks her to go back over her
memory in silhouette**

a father figure waits there, wants to set things straight. **Ambiguous –
could be her dad wanting to make up, or could be the boyfriend, and his
image is a comfort.**

These ribs are pleats or seams. These arms are sleeves. **He uses his
body as a metaphor for the jacket and the security he will offer her**

These fingertips are buttons, or these hands can fold

into a clasp, or else these fingers make a zip

or buckle, **All offering her security. you say which.** **She has choices**

and control in this relationship **Step backwards into it** **Asks her to trust
him**

and try the same canary-yellow cotton jacket, there

like this, for size again. It still fits. **She is still the same girl she was then,
but she now has security too.**

Now answer this question in your exercise book:

Compare the way that relationships are shown in this poem, and two other
poems of your choice.

