**Mechanical grief**

And I see you, fortuitously, in the cheapest  
chicken lot in town, tucked hard against a  
corrugated fence, with your bald front  
tyres sponging in a wind flogged puddle.

Sullen rain has washed the many days of  
road dust from your bonnet to make a sad  
piping on the leading edge. Traded down  
once more: ungroomed, unnoticed, ignored

you have ended up here, in desperate company  
ringed with cheap, faded bunting which shoals  
in the wind. A coal merchant on one side of  
the lot, a bankrupt saw doctor on the other.

I bought you at an auction, such a willing slave  
from the world’s other side. You carried me to  
trysts, trials and tribulations. In the first  
glow of possession I bathed you often: I rubbed

your flanks with turtle wax, and on summer days my  
arm hung from the window to feel the wind and the  
metal all at once. Now the thing that never sleeps  
has your body in corrosive jaws, though the four

chambers of your heart beat as ever strongly.  
At least I didn’t have to shoot you, but still  
feel your stoical reproach. Worthless in any  
complete form now, like the oldest wildebeest

you will be torn to pieces, and scavengers of  
the wrecker’s Serengeti will snout through your  
strewn, glistening entrails. And I will look away  
for always the loyalty was entirely on your side.

**Owen Marshall**

Connotations

Direct address – personal pronouns

Structure

Relationship – personification

Imagery

Tone - final

The purpose of this text is to… (1)

The narrator commences by…(2)

He develops his ideas by…(1-2)

Marshall makes powerful use of… to suggest/imply/create/evoke…(3)

Being a poem, the extensive use of … is to be expected. … (3)

His ideas/feelings about … are further underlined through …(3)

Overall, Marshall … (2)