Piano Practice Lauris Edmond

Child, creature, little anxious girl.

your whole body frowns,

your clambering hands

grapple mountains. The rocky crotchets mass

above you, and suspense hangs

on quavering slopes

past the next hard turning.

Your tense legs work, shoulders lean

towards higher ground – not much further –

when you can reach the last

black ominous chord, *sforzando*,

octaves on the left like boulders rolling,

at last – you’re there!

Summit achieved, you butterfly about,

the sunny day breaks out and everything

is sharp and singing.

Released, you run down the hill

to where the green-gold gorse waits

to force its stinging kisses

on your small hard shins.

Analyse how the poet uses language to convey the character of the child.