



'MOTHER ANY DISTANCE' BY SIMON ARMITAGE AND 'SINGH SONGH' BY DALJIT NAGRA

! YOUR ESSAY MUST MEET ALL THE CRITERIA FOR THE INTRODUCTION, BODY PARAGRAPHS, AS WELL AS CONCLUSION; OTHERWISE, YOUR ESSAY WILL NOT BE MARKED! !



! COMPLETE THE COVER LIST BELOW TO ENSURE YOU HAVE MET ALL THE CRITERIA !

Cover Checklist- ✓ Tick Each Section When Complete.

- ☒ PREP STEP - Make a copy of this document.
- ☒ PREP STEP - Share your essay outline template with your tutor.
- ☒ PREP STEP - Copy and paste the link for your essay outline into your study system.
- ☒ STEP 1 - Outline your 100% essay - **START WITH THE CONCLUSION & WORK BACKWARDS**
- ☒ STEP 2 - Use the TTECEA checklist for details
- ☒ STEP 3 - Revise your essay - check for coherence & cohesion, redundant repetition, clarity, vocabulary, etc.
- ☒ STEP 4 - Edit your essay.
- ☒ STEP 5 - Put your essay together as one complete piece.

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'SINGH SONGH!' BY DALJIT NAGRA

I run just one ov my daddy's shops
from 9 O'clock to 9 O'clock
and he vunt me not to hav a break
but ven nobody in, I do di lock –

cos up di stairs is my newly bride
vee share in chapatti
vee share in di chutney
after vee hav made luv
like vee rowing through Putney –

ven I return vid my pinnie untied
di shoppers always point and cry:
hey Singh, ver yoo bin?
yor lemons are limes
yor bananas are plantain,
dis dirty little floor need a little bit of mop
in di worst Indian shop
on di whole Indian road –

above my head high heel tap di ground
as my vife on di web is playing wid di mouse
ven she netting two cat on her Sikh lover site
she book dem for di meat at di cheese ov her price –

my bride
she effing at my mum
in all di colours of Punjabi
den stumble like a drunk
making fun at my daddy

my bride
tiny eyes ov a gun
and di tummy ov a teddy

my bride
she hav a red crew cut
and she wear a Tartan sari
a donkey jacket and some pumps
on di squeak ov di girls dat are pinching all my sweeties –

ven I return from di tickle ov my bride
di shoppers always point and cry:
hey Singh, ver yoo bin?





*di milk is out ov date
and di bread is always stale,
the tings yoo hav on offer yoo hav never got in stock
in di worst Indian shop
on di whole Indian road –*

*late in di midnight hour
ven yoo shoppers are wrap up quiet
ven di precinct is concrete-cool
vee cum down whispering stairs
and sit on my silver stool,
from behind di chocolate bars
vee stare past di half-price window signs
at di beaches ov di UK in di brightey moon –*

*from di stool each night she say,
how much do yoo charge for dat moon baby?*

*from di stool each night I say,
is half di cost ov yoo baby,*

*from di stool each night she say,
how much does dat come to baby?*

*from di stool each night I say,
is priceless baby –*





'MOTHER, ANY DISTANCE' BY SIMON ARMITAGE

Mother, any distance greater than a single span
requires a second pair of hands.

You come to help me measure windows, pelmets, doors,
the acres of the walls, the prairies of the floors.

You at the zero-end, me with the spool of tape, recording
length, reporting metres, centimetres back to base, then leaving
up the stairs, the line still feeding out, unreeling
years between us. Anchor. Kite.

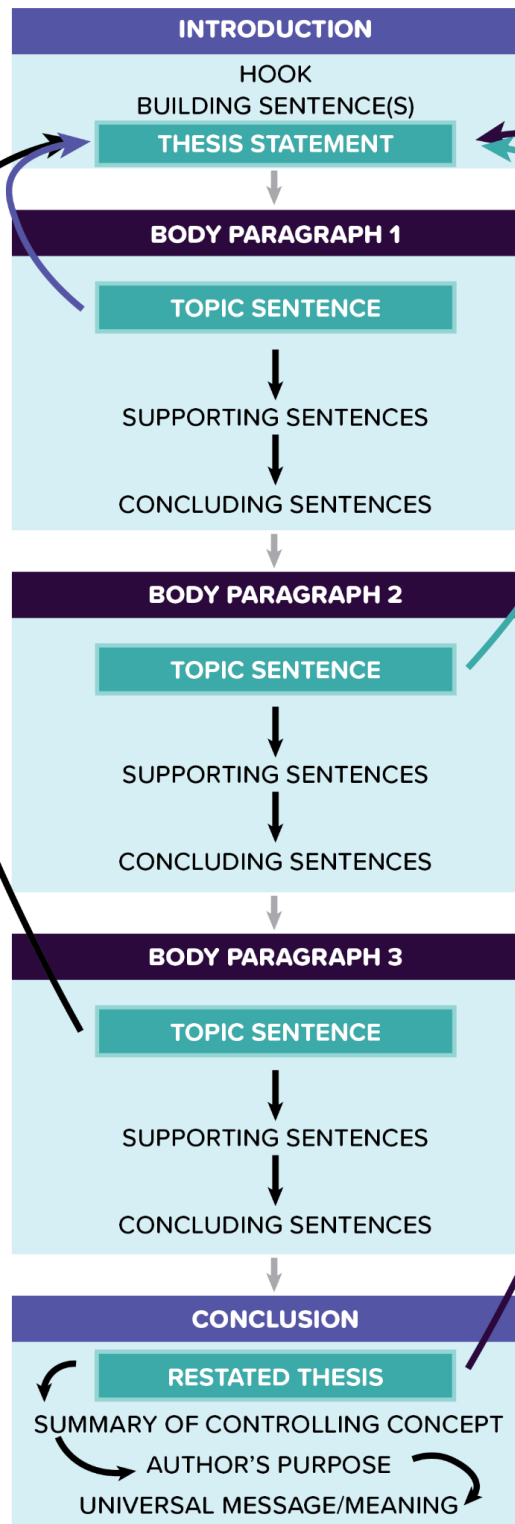
I space-walk through the empty bedrooms, climb
the ladder to the loft, to breaking point, where something
has to give;
two floors below your fingertips still pinch
the last one-hundredth of an inch...I reach
towards a hatch that opens on an endless sky
to fall or fly.





100% ESSAY STRUCTURE OVERVIEW







ESSAY PLAN

I. Introduction

- A. Cultural identity and personal growth in "Singh Song!" and "Mother, any Distance"
- B. Brief overview of the poems and their authors

II. Poetic Forms

- A. Irregular form in "Singh Song!"
 - 1. Energetic and exuberant tone
 - 2. Cultural richness and chaos
- B. Imperfect sonnet form in "Mother, any Distance"
 - 1. Continuity and exploration
 - 2. Emotional struggle between independence and support
- C. Comparison of forms
 - 1. Cultural contexts and emotions

III. Language

- A. Punjabi-inflected English in "Singh Song!"
 - 1. Humor and authenticity
 - 2. Celebrating cultural diversity
- B. Restrained and formal language in "Mother, any Distance"
 - 1. Contemplative and introspective nature
 - 2. Complexities of familial relationships
- C. Comparison of language
 - 1. Historical context and authors' purposes

IV. Structure

- A. Irregular structure in "Singh Song!"
 - 1. Playful demeanor and unconventional life
 - 2. Carefree attitude and resistance to societal expectations
- B. Tightly controlled structure in "Mother, any Distance"
 - 1. Continuity and exploration
 - 2. Introspective and reflective nature
- C. Comparison of structures
 - 1. Overall effect of the poems

V. Conclusion

- A. Summary of contrasting poetic forms, language, and structure
- B. Historical context and its impact on themes
- C. Importance of cultural identity and personal growth in the modern era





STEP 1: OUTLINING - Complete Your 100% Essay Outline

Criteria	Status	INTRODUCTION - Do not make this too detailed.
<u>Hook AO1</u> fact/statistic ▾	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In an era where cultural identity and personal growth collide, Daljit Nagra's "Singh Song!" and Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" offer unique perspectives on the immigrant experience and the journey to adulthood, providing readers with a vivid exploration of the challenges faced by individuals navigating the complexities of their historical contexts.
<u>Building sentence(s) AO3</u> <input type="checkbox"/> counter-argument OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> some contextual info	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Daljit Nagra's "Singh Song!" and Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" are two contemporary poems that, despite their differences in form and subject matter, both explore themes of identity and personal growth. While Nagra's poem is a lively and humorous portrayal of a young man's life in a family-owned shop, Armitage's poem is a reflective and introspective look at the bond between a mother and son as the latter prepares to leave home.
<u>Thesis statement AO1</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 2 <input type="checkbox"/> key idea 3	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Through an examination of the contrasting poetic forms, language, and structure, this essay seeks to illuminate how Daljit Nagra's "Singh Song!" and Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" effectively convey the emotions and experiences of their protagonists, revealing their authors' distinct purposes and the influence of historical context on their respective themes.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 1 - only focus on KEY IDEA #1
<u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 1	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In Nagra's "Singh Song!," the irregular form, characterized by varying stanza lengths and a mix of end-rhymes, contributes to the poem's energetic and exuberant tone.
<u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis	Complete ▾ (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	This choice reflects the vibrant culture and linguistic diversity present in the poem's setting, as evidenced by lines like "di worst Indian shop / on di whole Indian road." Consequently, the irregular form elicits a sense of excitement and curiosity from the reader, aligning with Nagra's purpose of showcasing the cultural richness and chaos in the protagonist's life. On the other hand, Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" adheres to an imperfect sonnet form, consisting of fourteen lines and a somewhat consistent rhyme scheme. By utilizing enjambment and internal





<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*		rhymes, Armitage creates a sense of continuity and exploration, as demonstrated in the opening lines: "Mother, any distance greater than a single span / requires a second pair of hands." This imperfect sonnet form adds an element of tension, reflecting the emotional struggle between the desire for independence and the need for support. As a result, the contrasting forms highlight the differing cultural contexts and emotions at play in each poem.
WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3 <input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Nagra's form emphasizes the playful and chaotic aspects of the protagonist's life, while Armitage's form underscores the reflective and intimate nature of his speaker's journey towards self-discovery and autonomy.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 2 - only focus on KEY IDEA #2
WHAT? Topic sentence AO1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key idea 2	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	Language also plays a significant role in defining the emotional landscape of each poem, with each poet's choices reflecting the historical context and their respective purposes.
HOW? Supporting sentences AO2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*	<div>Complete ▾</div> (only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)	In Nagra's "Singh Song!," the use of Punjabi-inflected English, or "Punglish," adds a sense of humor and authenticity to the poem, breaking conventional linguistic boundaries and inviting the reader to share in the protagonist's joy. This can be seen in lines like "when I return from di tickle ov my bride / di whole Indian road stares at me." The use of colloquial language, such as "tickle" and "bride," creates an intimate connection with the reader, immersing them in the protagonist's world. Nagra's purpose is to celebrate the cultural diversity and linguistic richness of the British Asian experience, challenging stereotypes and promoting understanding. In contrast, Armitage employs a more restrained and formal language in "Mother, any Distance," as evidenced by lines like "you at the zero-end, me with the spool of tape." This choice reflects the contemplative and introspective nature of the poem, drawing the reader into the speaker's emotional journey as they grapple with the inevitability of change and the strength of their maternal bond.





<u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u> <input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)	<div>Complete ▾</div> <div>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</div>	Armitage's purpose is to explore the complexities of familial relationships and the universal experience of growing up, capturing the tension between dependence and independence.
Criteria	Status	BODY PARAGRAPH 3 - only focus on KEY IDEA #3
<u>WHAT? Topic sentence AO1</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> key-idea-3	<div>Complete ▾</div> <div>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</div>	Additionally, both poets make deliberate structural choices that contribute to the overall effect of their poems.
<u>HOW? Supporting sentences AO2</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> terminology <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> evidence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> close analysis <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> effects*	<div>Complete ▾</div> <div>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</div>	Nagra's "Singh Song!" is marked by its irregular structure, which mirrors the protagonist's unconventional life and playful demeanor, as seen in stanzas like "I run just one ov my daddy's shops / from 9 o'clock to 9 o'clock." The repetition of "9 o'clock" and the enjambment between lines emphasize the protagonist's carefree attitude and his resistance to societal expectations. In contrast, Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" is characterized by its tightly controlled structure, featuring enjambment and imagery to create a sense of continuity and exploration. For example, the lines "I space-walk through the empty bedrooms, climb / the ladder to the loft, to breaking point" convey the speaker's emotional journey, moving through memories and navigating the unknown.
<u>WHY? Concluding sentence(s) AO2/AO3</u> <input type="checkbox"/> author's purpose <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (final thought / context about the key idea)	<div>Complete ▾</div> <div>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</div>	This ordered structure contrasts with Nagra's poem, highlighting the introspective and reflective nature of the speaker's experience, as opposed to the energetic and carefree atmosphere of "Singh Song!"
Criteria	Status	CONCLUSION - CRUCIAL!
<u>Restated thesis AO1</u>	<div>Complete ▾</div> <div>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</div>	In conclusion, the analysis of the contrasting poetic forms, language, and structure in Daljit Nagra's "Singh Song!" and Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" has illuminated the effective portrayal of the emotions and experiences of their protagonists,





<p>(Re-write your thesis statement in different words.)</p>		uncovering the distinct purposes of their authors and the impact of historical context on their respective themes.
<p>Summary of controlling concept AO1</p> <p>How does your thesis link to the central theme of the text?</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>During the late 20th and early 21st centuries, globalization and the migration of people from diverse cultural backgrounds have played a significant role in shaping the experiences and identities of individuals. "Singh Song!" by Daljit Nagra is set against the backdrop of the British Indian diaspora, a community formed by the migration of people from India to the United Kingdom over several decades. The poem showcases the protagonist's life as a shopkeeper, highlighting the blending of traditional Indian culture with contemporary British society. On the other hand, Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" addresses the universal theme of personal growth and the transition to adulthood. Although it does not directly reference a specific historical context, the poem can be situated within the broader cultural shift towards individualism and self-discovery that has characterized the late 20th and early 21st centuries.</p>
<p>Summary of author's central purpose AO1/AO3</p> <p>How does the controlling concept reflect the MAIN reason that the author wrote the text?</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	
<p>Universal message AO1</p> <p>(What is the MAIN message of the text? Focus on the end.)</p>	<p>Complete ▾</p> <p>(only mark complete when steps 1-5 are ALL complete)</p>	<p>As young people grapple with their evolving identities and navigate the complexities of modern life, the bond between parent and child becomes both a source of comfort and a point of tension.</p>

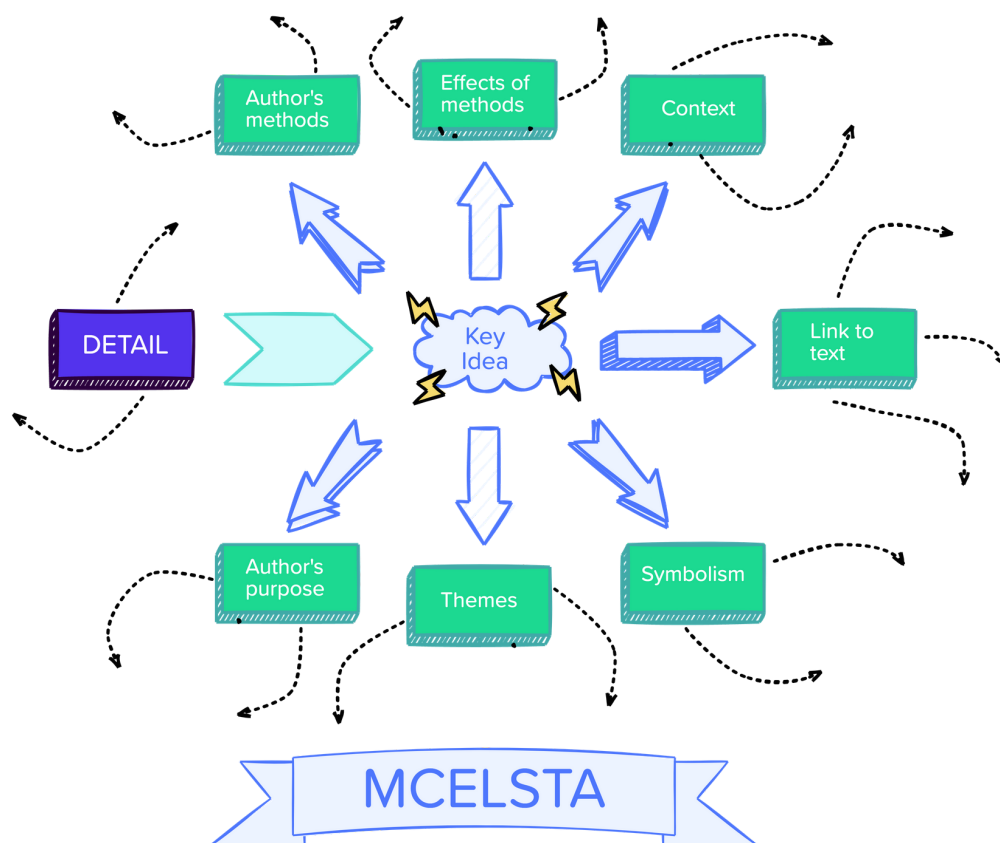




STEP 2: ADDING DETAIL-Complete the *TTECEA* Checklist for Detail

1. To achieve a grade 9 level of detail, ensure that you link your key idea in each of your body paragraphs to as many of the elements of the *TTECEA* mnemonic as possible (aim to write about 650-950 words maximum for the entire essay)
2. You do not need to have each of the *TTECEA* elements in each paragraph, but make sure you have all of them in the entirety of your essay.
3. Each item on the checklist should only have 2 main purposes:
 - a. **to link to your key idea in each paragraph**
 - b. **and support your argument.**

- ✓ **TOPIC SENTENCE:** Introduce the key idea of your body paragraph.
- ✓ **TECHNIQUE:** Select a key technique the author uses (one you can explore in detail, eg, metaphor, simile, etc).
- ✓ **EVIDENCE:** EMBED a quote to back up your ideas.
- ✓ **CLOSE ANALYSIS:** Break the technique into smaller pieces, zoom in and analyse them PERCEPTIVELY.
- ✓ **EFFECTS ON THE READER*:** Explore what the author's method makes us focus on, feel (emotionally) or think.
- ✓ **AUTHOR'S PURPOSE:** Explore why the might want to make us feel a certain way about certain ideas.





STEP 3: REVISING - Revise Your Essay

Ensure you have revised the following aspects of your essay:





- ☒ Removed/replaced ALL redundant repetition.
- ☒ Replaced ALL instances of the word 'shows' with more accurate and specific verbs for inferring effects of the author's methods (check toolkit).
- ☒ Revised essay for coherence: are the ideas in each of the paragraphs clearly connected to each other?
- ☒ Revised essay for cohesion: check the toolkit for help.
- ☒ Removed all instances of the following words and replace them with specific details of the topics you are exploring:
 - How
 - Shows
 - Some
 - Something
 - Thing
 - This
 - Way
 - What
- ☒ Your vocabulary is academic – no informal language unless quoting directly.
- ☒ Revised essay for clarity – is your essay easy to read? Ask a peer to read it and give you feedback.





STEP 4: EDITING - Edit Your Essay

Ensure you have edited the following aspects of spelling, punctuation, and grammar:

- ☒ All words are spelt correctly.
- ☒ All sentences and names begin with a capital see guidelines below 
- ☒ All sentences end with a full stop.
- ☒  No sentences are separated with a comma  
- ☒ I used a comma before and after the following words or phrases:
 - for example,
 - however
- ☒ I have used ellipses to indicate missing words in quotes.
- ☒ I have used at least one semi-colon to separate or join closely related sentences.
 - The language paper focuses on various forms of writing; the literature paper focuses primarily on academic essay writing.
 - There are five keys to a grade 9 essay: structure, conceptualisation, context, detail, and convincing evidence.
- ☒ I have used a colon to introduce a quote, phrase, word, etc.

HOW TO REMEMBER CAPITALS - **ABLE PRINTS**:

- **Abbreviations: U.K., USA, UAE**
- **Beginnings of sentences: Nobody** saw it coming.
- **Languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Arabic,**
- **Emphasis - I LOVE CHEESE!** (avoid this)

- **Places: Africa, Mecca, London, Zimbabwe**
- **Religions and words related to them: Islam/Muslim, Christianity/Christian, Judaism/Jewish, Hinduism/Hindu**
- **I, as in me**
- **Names (specific) of people, places, businesses, e.g., Shakespeare, Apple, London.**
- **Titles of books, movies, or programmes, e.g., The Lion King, Macbeth,**
- **Special days: Eid, Christmas, Diwali**

SPAG RULES

<https://www.grammarly.com/blog/category/handbook/>





STEP 5: COMPLETE - 'MOTHER ANY DISTANCE' BY SIMON ARMITAGE AND 'SINGH SONGH' BY DALJIT NAGRA

In an era where cultural identity and personal growth collide, Daljit Nagra's "Singh Song!" and Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" offer unique perspectives on the immigrant experience and the journey to adulthood, providing readers with a vivid exploration of the challenges faced by individuals navigating the complexities of their historical contexts. Daljit Nagra's "Singh Song!" and Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" are two contemporary poems that, despite their differences in form and subject matter, both explore themes of identity and personal growth. While Nagra's poem is a lively and humorous portrayal of a young man's life in a family-owned shop, Armitage's poem is a reflective and introspective look at the bond between a mother and son as the latter prepares to leave home. Through an examination of the contrasting poetic forms, language, and structure, this essay seeks to illuminate how Daljit Nagra's "Singh Song!" and Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" effectively convey the emotions and experiences of their protagonists, revealing their authors' distinct purposes and the influence of historical context on their respective themes.

In Nagra's "Singh Song!," the irregular form, characterized by varying stanza lengths and a mix of end-rhymes, contributes to the poem's energetic and exuberant tone. This choice reflects the vibrant culture and linguistic diversity present in the poem's setting, as evidenced by lines like "di worst Indian shop / on di whole Indian road." Consequently, the irregular form elicits a sense of excitement and curiosity from the reader, aligning with Nagra's purpose of showcasing the cultural richness and chaos in the protagonist's life. On the other hand, Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" adheres to an imperfect sonnet form, consisting of fourteen lines and a somewhat consistent rhyme scheme. By utilizing enjambment and internal rhymes, Armitage creates a sense of continuity and exploration, as demonstrated in the opening lines: "Mother, any distance greater than a single span / requires a second pair of hands." This imperfect sonnet form adds an element of tension, reflecting the emotional struggle between the desire for independence and the need for support. As a result, the contrasting forms highlight the differing cultural contexts and emotions at play in each poem. Nagra's form emphasizes the playful and chaotic aspects of the protagonist's life, while Armitage's form underscores the reflective and intimate nature of his speaker's journey towards self-discovery and autonomy.

Language also plays a significant role in defining the emotional landscape of each poem, with each poet's choices reflecting the historical context and their respective purposes. In Nagra's "Singh Song!," the use of Punjabi-inflected English, or "Punlish," adds a sense of humor and authenticity to the poem, breaking conventional linguistic boundaries and inviting the reader to share in the protagonist's joy. This can be seen in lines like "when I return from di tickle ov my bride / di whole Indian road stares at me." The use of colloquial language, such as "tickle" and "bride," creates an intimate connection with the reader, immersing them in the protagonist's world. Nagra's purpose is to celebrate the cultural diversity and linguistic richness of the British Asian experience, challenging stereotypes and promoting understanding. In contrast, Armitage employs a more restrained and formal language in "Mother, any Distance," as evidenced by lines like "you at the zero-end, me with the spool of tape." This choice reflects the contemplative and introspective nature of the poem, drawing the reader into the speaker's emotional journey as they grapple with the inevitability of change and the strength of their maternal bond. Armitage's purpose is to explore the complexities of familial relationships and the universal experience of growing up, capturing the tension between dependence and independence.





Additionally, both poets make deliberate structural choices that contribute to the overall effect of their poems. Nagra's "Singh Song!" is marked by its irregular structure, which mirrors the protagonist's unconventional life and playful demeanor, as seen in stanzas like "I run just one ov my daddy's shops / from 9 o'clock to 9 o'clock." The repetition of "9 o'clock" and the enjambment between lines emphasize the protagonist's carefree attitude and his resistance to societal expectations. In contrast, Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" is characterized by its tightly controlled structure, featuring enjambment and imagery to create a sense of continuity and exploration. For example, the lines "I space-walk through the empty bedrooms, climb / the ladder to the loft, to breaking point" convey the speaker's emotional journey, moving through memories and navigating the unknown. This ordered structure contrasts with Nagra's poem, highlighting the introspective and reflective nature of the speaker's experience, as opposed to the energetic and carefree atmosphere of "Singh Song!"

In conclusion, the analysis of the contrasting poetic forms, language, and structure in Daljit Nagra's "Singh Song!" and Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" has illuminated the effective portrayal of the emotions and experiences of their protagonists, uncovering the distinct purposes of their authors and the impact of historical context on their respective themes. During the late 20th and early 21st centuries, globalization and the migration of people from diverse cultural backgrounds have played a significant role in shaping the experiences and identities of individuals. "Singh Song!" by Daljit Nagra is set against the backdrop of the British Indian diaspora, a community formed by the migration of people from India to the United Kingdom over several decades. The poem showcases the protagonist's life as a shopkeeper, highlighting the blending of traditional Indian culture with contemporary British society. On the other hand, Simon Armitage's "Mother, any Distance" addresses the universal theme of personal growth and the transition to adulthood. Although it does not directly reference a specific historical context, the poem can be situated within the broader cultural shift towards individualism and self-discovery that has characterized the late 20th and early 21st centuries. As young people grapple with their evolving identities and navigate the complexities of modern life, the bond between parent and child becomes both a source of comfort and a point of tension.





STEP 5v2: COMPLETE - 'MOTHER ANY DISTANCE' BY SIMON ARMITAGE AND 'SINGH SONGH' BY DALJIT NAGRA

Armitage's 'Mother, any distance' offers a general account of a child moving into their first home, with independence barely achieved. Nagra's 'Singh Song', however, presents a newly married Indian couple and their integration both within the groom's family and in English culture. Both poems, despite these differences, ultimately reveal how difficult it can be to achieve independence

Though Armitage's poem depicts a scene of a person's increasing maturity, there are hints throughout the work that imply he is still slightly immature: for example, describing the 'acres of the walls, the prairies of the floors', whilst aptly capturing the enormity of the situation, is in its hyperbole not dissimilar to the way in which a child conceptualises space. Elsewhere, Armitage suggests he 'space-walk[s] through the empty bedrooms', not only emphasising a child-like imagination but also how he feels weightless or hollow at the opportunity ahead. Thus even though the speaker is about to become independent, there is the intimation that he still has a way of viewing the world that belongs to a child. A similar tension can be detected throughout Nagra's 'Singh Song', the speaker of which runs 'just one' of his 'daddy's shops'. This slight detail overall suggests the speaker's diminutive status, which is emphasised by his unfocused attitude towards work: aside from closing the shop to have sex (or to make 'luv'), when he does return it is with his 'pinnie untied' and he then faces an angry set of customers who accuse him of having 'di worst Indian shop / on di whole Indian road'.

'Mother, any distance' belongs to a poetry collection called *Book of Matches*, a series of sonnets written about the brevity of everyday life and that are supposed to be read in the amount of time it takes for a match to burn. Sonnets were traditionally used in legal disputes as the form allows logical arguments to be presented; but does 'Mother, any distance' solve a problem? In the final stanza the speaker goes to the top of the house and imagines how 'two floors below your fingertips still pinch / the last one-hundredth of an inch...' Armitage's ellipsis is full of the potential that awaits him in his independence, but the notion of his mother impossibly holding on to a 'one-hundredth of an inch' also conveys a desperation.² It is uncertain, then, quite how the speaker feels about this defining separation. Nagra also engages with the reader's expectations through 'Singh Song', but this is noted in the poem's title, which plays on the notion of 'sing song', a designation for basic poetry, and 'Singh', a word that all Sikh men take as part of their names and that means lion. With the poem's mock phonetic Punjabi accent and comic lines Nagra therefore challenges the boundaries of English love poetry to reflect other cultural experiences of growing up in Britain. For all his wife's remissible actions, the speaker is clearly infatuated with her still, always returning to 'my bride' as the poem goes on. The relationship is evidently new – he calls her 'bride', not 'wife' – and as part of this he is still learning about her, hence why he describes her as having 'tiny eyes ov a gun / and di tummy ov a teddy'. Nagra's metaphors juxtapose her danger with a plump cuteness, suggesting the heady intoxication of this different love poem. Thus whereas Armitage's speaker poses his independence as an open question, Nagra's poem coyly avoids any easy sense of resolution as the speaker navigates his growing independence from his parents and the imaginative freedoms that come with this.

At the beginning of the second stanza, Armitage's speaker notes 'You at the zero-end, me with the spool of tape', an appropriate metaphor for how a child begins with their mother but then, as the years go on and the numbers in the reel increase, a distance grows between them. In the description of the measuring of the house in the second stanza, Armitage uses enjambment to literally enact the 'recording / length' happening around him. Stretching across lines laden with caesuras just as the tape measure is being twisted around the shell of the house's walls, the poem captures the reeling uncertainty that comes with this momentous occasion. Appropriately, Armitage ends the stanza by juxtaposing two objects: 'Anchor. Kite.' The implication is that the speaker will either sink or fly, two apt metaphors





for coming of age. Nagra, whose parents were shopkeepers, uses 'Singh Song' to emphasise the experience of immigrants in Britain. The poem jovially plays to Indian stereotypes but also captures the changes occurring between first- and secondgeneration immigrants. For example, the speaker's wife is said to 'hav a red crew cut / and she wear a Tartan sari', she mocks the speaker's father and swears at his mother and she glamorously wears high heels (stanza four), all of which emphasise her integration within Western culture – the younger generation of 'Singh Song' achieve independence in part by creating their own hybrid personality.

Both 'Mother, any distance' and 'Singh Song' show how independence takes time: children do not automatically become adults. Yet the endings of both poems are also filled with hope: Nagra revels in the speaker's joy of his 'priceless' love and Armitage's speaker is presented with 'an endless sky / to fall or fly.' Independence, it seems, is inevitable, but it is also exciting

