

Task for *Selected Poetry and Prose*

'The Brides' Activity

Printed below is one verse of a poem.

In your group discuss:

- what it might mean
- any patterns in language
- any questions you might have

- Record your notes and observations below the verse.
- You have five minutes to complete this activity before you pass the verse on to the next group.
- Feel free to comment on other people's observations as well as contributing your own.

Down the assembly line they roll and pass

Complete at last, a miracle of design;

Their chromium fenders, the unbreakable glass,

The fashionable curve, the air-flow line.

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Grease to the elbows Mum and Dad enthuse,

Pocket their spanners and survey the bride;

Murmur: "A sweet job! All she needs is juice!

Built for a life-time—sleek as a fish. Inside

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“He will find every comfort: the full set
Of gadgets; knobs that answer to the touch
For light or music; a place for his cigarette;
Room for his knees; a honey of a clutch.”

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Now slowly through the show-room's flattering glare

See her wheeled in to love, console, obey,

Shining and silent! Parson with a prayer

Blesses the number-plate, she rolls away

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To write her numerals in his book of life;

And now, at last, stands on the open road,

Triumphant, perfect, every inch a wife,

While the corks pop, the flash-light bulbs explode.

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Her heavenly bowser-boy assumes his seat;

She prints the soft dust with her brand-new treads,

Swings towards the future, purring with a sweet

Concatenation of the poppet heads.