

In the poem 'Living Space', the poet also presents a significant place but the way she does it is different to William Blake. Whilst he presents London very negatively, this poet presents the slums in Mumbai in a much more positive way.

In the first stanza, the poet writes that 'Nothing is flat or parallel' to show how everything about these slums is wonky and crooked. Although that may seem odd to us, whose houses are all straight and uniform, this is normal to the people who live there. The poet continues to describe how 'the whole structure leans dangerously towards the miraculous'. The use of the word 'miraculous' emphasises how the poet wants to present how incredible these living conditions ~~are~~. This is very different to Blake's purpose, which was to criticise the people with the most wealth in London who do not help those most in need.*

The poet continues to describe how 'someone has squeezed a living space' to emphasise how unbelievable it is that people are living in such a compact place. The stanza itself is very short and looks like it too has been 'squeezed' in, to represent the slums. In this way the poet uses structure in a similar way to the poet of 'London' who uses a regular rhyme scheme to emphasise the constant cycle of poverty in London.

In the final stanza, the poet seems to zoom in on a particular slum, where someone has 'dared to

place these eggs in a ~~wire~~ wire basket'. The way she uses the verb 'dared' shows how risky this is, as the slums are very unstable. The poet has probably zoomed in on the eggs as they are an everyday food item but a significant one here, as they are so delicate - they could easily get broken but the person living there has trust in their home. The quotation 'bright, thin walls of faith' is a metaphor that suggests the eggs symbolise this trust that the residents have in their homes to keep them safe, even though they appear so dangerous and risky to us.

In this way, the slums are presented really positively unlike 'London' which is full of words like 'woe', 'cry', 'appalls', 'curse' - all emphasising the unhappiness and desperation of people in London compared to the hopefulness of people in 'Living Space'.

- * Dharker had been to Mumbai and experienced these slums first-hand, so she wanted to present them accurately and positively.

The structure of 'Living Space' is also significant as Dharker hasn't used anything consistently - the poem is full of different length lines ~~of~~ and stanzas to represent the lack of straight lines in these slums.