



ONE SHEET REVISION

'Half-Past Two' by UA Fanthorpe

Summarise what the poem is about in full sentences:

Annotate the poem with points you remember from your initial study:

Half-Past Two

Once upon a schooltime
He did Something Very Wrong
(I forget what it was).

And She said he'd done
Something Very Wrong, and must
Stay in the school-room till half-past-two.

(Being cross, she'd forgotten
She hadn't taught him Time.
He was too scared at being wicked to remind her.)

He knew a lot of time: he knew
Gettinguptime, timeyowereofftime,
Timetogohomenowtime, TV time,

Timeformykisstime (that was Grantime).
All the important times he knew,
But not half-past-two.

He knew the clockface, the little eyes
And two long legs for walking,
But he couldn't click its language,

So he waited, beyond onceupon a,
Out of reach of all the timefors,
And knew he'd escaped for ever

Into the smell of old chrysanthemums on Her desk,
Into the silent noise his hangnail made,
Into the air outside the window, into ever.

And then, my goodness, she said,
Scuttling in, I forgot all about you.
Run along or you'll be late.

So she slotted him back into schooltime,
And he got home in time for teatime,
Nexttime, notimeforthatnowtime,

But he never forgot how once by not knowing time,
He escaped into the clockless land for ever,
Where time hides tick-less waiting to be born

What is the background to the writing of 'Half-Past-Two'?

What is Fanthorpe's intention in writing this poem?

When was this poem written?

How has Fanthorpe's own experiences influenced her writing?

to criticise

to inform

to celebrate

to advocate

Language		Structure and form	
	Example and effect		Example and effect
Adjectives		Omniscient third person narrator.	
Neologisms		Free verse	
Compound words		Enjambment	
Personification		Short stanzas versus long sentences	
Onomatopoeia		Capitalisation	
Sensory language		Parenthesis	

What other poems in the anthology can we link to this poem to and why?

How does Fanthorpe explore the theme of time in her poem 'Half-past-two'?