**“Caged” by Geoffrey Goodfellow**

Construct a mind map around a theme statement in response to the following questions.

**Some Strategies for Producing a Close Readings**

**Binary Oppositions**

What pairs of opposing forces can you identify in the text?

What key conflicts are suggested by the binary oppositions?

Does one half of a pair seem more powerful than the other?

How is the reader intended to respond to the opposing forces? I.e. how is the reader positioned?

Do the binary oppositions suggest any ideological messages?

**Does this poem expose or normalize socially unjust ideology?**

You unified reading needs to be supported by the text structures and language features used in the text.

**Caged by Geoffrey Goodfellow**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| at 38 his youth’s tattooed  over him like a roadmap  and the eagle on his chest  has its claws dug in hard  on her  there’s no flying away  wings clipped by two kids  and the worry of that .38  in the top drawer  *all I can do is hug the kids*  *in tight when he gets home*  she sobs *I don’t think*  *he’d belt THEM* | and its dewdrops on the nostrils  hayfever eyes for all seasons  there’s no new horizons  and no place far enough away  she’s caged to a life of  aspirins and empties -  watches late night tattoos  sees HATE  blueprinted  into both claws. |

My thesis/theme statement:

**Narration:**

How is the text narrated and how does this position the audience?

What tone (attitude to people, places, and events) does the narrator adopt?

(Consider how **point of view, focalisation and voice** position the reader in relation to perspectives, ideas and reliability of the characters or narrator in the text.)

**Symbols and Metaphors**

What are some key symbols and/or metaphors that are repeated and/or developed in a text to shape representations and ideas in a text?