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

flying clipped *tight THEM* nostrils tattooed horizons caged blueprinted eagle

**What is your initial reading of the poem? What gut feeling do you have about the poem’s meaning? Write a sentence in which you produce an interpretation of the poem’s meaning.**

**Three Level Guide – literal, inferential and thematic meaning**

Complete the Three Level Guide below **as an individual** then **compare responses in pairs.**

Be prepared to support responses to class through close references to the poem.

1. **Literal Meaning: Tick those statements which appear in the text. The statements may be worded differently, but they must have the same meaning. Be ready to explain your reasons.**

* The male is in his late thirties.
* The male has a caged bird tattooed on his chest.
* The male has an eagle tattooed on his knuckles.
* The female is not afraid of the male character.
* The female does not think the male will harm the children.

1. **Inferred meaning: Tick those statements which can be inferred from the text. That is, tick the statements which state what Goodfellow means. Be ready to justify your choices.**

* The male character is violent and abusive towards his partner.
* Alcohol helps to pacify the male’s rage.
* There is a tattoo of a woman on the man’s chest.
* The woman’s life resembles that of a caged bird.
* The woman fears the gun.
* The woman has no way to dull her pain.
* Children have no reason to fear domestic violence.
* A woman should be able to leave a violent marriage.
* The male belts his partner.

1. **Reading for themes/ideas/concepts. Tick those statements which you think Goodfellow would agree with. Use the text to justify your choices. The poem conveys the idea that:**

* Women are just as much to blame for domestic violence as men.
* Domestic violence within marriage is destructive.
* Lack of affection between men and women may lead to domestic violence.
* Domestic violence is abhorrent.
* Some men misuse their power within the family.
* There are harm filled consequences for women from ‘toxic masculinity’.

**Does this poem expose or conceal the misuse of patriarchal power?**

**What you are aiming to find is a reading or interpretation of the poem which is best supported by the text structures and language features of the text, an interpretation that you could base an entire essay on.**