

Second Thoughts

1. Write a one sentence summary of each stanza.
2. Find two literary devices/figures of speech and explain their purposes.
3. What is the theme?
4. Why do you think the author chose that title?

Second Thoughts *By Barrie Wade*

This was the house for knock
and run. I only did it once
and then a cruel clattering
and twitch of yellow curtain
haunted me for days and hung
like lead around my neck.

This is the house with paint that peels
and seeded grasses in the lawn
with dusty windows spiderwebbed
where his fist has thumped at children,
nurses, dogs, home-helps - all
but me and meals on wheels

This is the house where next I
knocked and waited paralysed
while the shuffling came close,
where the old door gave a creak,
where I shouted, "Can I make your tea?"
and where he answered gently, "Aye".