

Stanza-by-Stanza Analysis

	Stanzas	Meanings
1.	<p>What has happened to Lulu, mother? What has happened to Lu? There's nothing in her bed but an old rag-doll And by its side a shoe.</p>	<p>The child is asking his mother what has happened to his sister, Lulu. There seems to be nothing on her bed except for her old doll made of cloth which she must have left behind. Beside her bed is a shoe that she has left.</p>
2.	<p>Why is her window wide, mother? The curtain flapping free, And only a circle on the dusty shelf Where her money-box used to be</p>	<p>The child continues with another question, asking his mother why the window is wide open, leaving the curtain blowing in the wind. He notices that his sister's money box is gone, too, as it leaves a circular mark on the dusty shelf, where the money box used to be</p>
3.	<p>Why do you turn your head, mother, And why do tear-drops fall? And why do you crumple that note on the fire And say it is nothing at all?</p>	<p>The child asks his mother why she turns her head away at his questions. He sees his mother crying and is puzzled.</p> <p>The child also notices that his mother has thrown a crumpled note into the fire, probably written by Lulu before she left. However, the mother does not tell the child what his sister has written in the note.</p>
4.	<p>I woke to voices late last night, I heard an engine roar. Why do you tell me the things I heard Were a dream and nothing more?</p>	<p>The child tells his mother that he heard voices and the sound of a car engine the night before. However, the mother tries to convince the child that it was a dream</p>
5.	<p>I heard somebody cry, mother, In anger or in pain, But now I ask you why, mother You say it was a gust of rain</p>	<p>The child insists that he heard someone crying that night but he is not sure if it was in anger or pain.</p> <p>The child asks his mother the reason but his mother insists that it was just the sound of the rain. The child knows his mother has all the answers but refuses to tell him.</p>
6.	<p>Why do you wander about as though You don't know what to do? What has happened to Lulu, mother? What has happened to Lu?</p>	<p>The child asks his mother why she is walking around aimlessly as if she does not know what to do. The poem ends with the child curiously repeating the same question - what has happened to his sister, Lulu?</p>