

They sit and stare and stare and sit
Until they're hypnotised by it,
Until they're absolutely drunk
With all that shocking ghastly junk.
Oh yes, we know it keeps them still,
They don't climb out the window sill,
They never fight or kick or punch,
They leave you free to cook the lunch
And wash the dishes in the sink --
But did you ever stop to think,
To wonder just exactly what
This does to your beloved tot?

ANALYTICAL EXPLANATION [POEM - TELEVISION]

[d-13
-24] According to the poet it is not uncommon to see the children sitting and staring continuously at the television sets. In almost every house, the same scenario is witnessed. The children are so obsessive of watching the televisions that they remain engrossed in it without caring for how long they have been sitting.

→ Due to their obsessive indulgence in watching television, children remain glued to one place. This means that they do not get involved in their everyday's mischievous activities like climbing out the window sill. Moreover, they do not quarrel as children are normally supposed to do. Due to this, their elders can feel relieved and feel free to cook the lunch or wash the dishes without worrying too much about their children.

→ The poet uses a phrase - 'all that is shocking ghastly junk' - this phrase is obviously for the contents of the TV programmes watched by children so relentlessly. By using this phrase, the poet wants to tell that almost all that is served to the children in the name of information and entertainment has no use for them.

→ The poet wants to inform the parents by delivering a caution about the fact that children involved in watching television might provide the parents with momentary relief, but the harm being done to the children is irreparable. The practice of watching television will turn their children into obtuse creatures.

→ The poet wants to tell the parents that they should not feel complacent just because their children do not disturb them and stay away from their engagements. Instead, they must try to closely observe them and try to find out why their children do not behave as they should. What gives them a temporary relief and opportunity to do things without the intervention of their kids is actually a dangerous trap that will spoil their natural talent.