**Theme**

The theme represented in this scene is death, specifically the death of Clare’s father. This is seen throughout the play, but is most important in this funeral scene. The themes of childhood and family are also present in this scene, particularly when Clare puts glitter over her hair to brighten up the situation.

**Key quotations:**

* “Ah took the gold wan, squeezing the glitter on ma fingers and then rubbin it intae ma hair, then added silver and red and green.”

**Language**

**Key quotations:**

* “The dull cloth … wis **bleezin** wi light”

This is an interesting example of word choice which Donovan uses to signify Clare’s spirit. She describes the glitter on the cloth as “bleezin”, which has **connotations** of an unstoppable fire filled with life. As she covers herself in glitter for the funeral, Clare can also be seen as unstoppable and full of life.

**Characterisation**

This scene shows that Clare is thoughtful towards her dad when she wears her red dress because it was his favourite. Clare wears it because she still wants to make him happy and to shows that she thinks about him every day.

**Key quotations:**

* “But these were ma daddy’s favourites. He said ah looked brilliant in this.”

**Symbolism**

The glitter represents Clare’s life as positive, even in the saddest times. It is described as if her life is full of light, glitter and positivity.

The dust also becomes positive in this scene, even though it represents the dead of her father (asbestos dust). Clare views the dust as dancing and happy, even after her father’s death.

**Key quotations:**

* “The strands of hair stood oot roon ma heid like a halo, glisterin and dancing in the light.”
* A sunbeam came through the windae and ah watched the dustspecks dancing in the light.”

**Key Scene:**

The Funeral

**Theme**

*Childhood, family, death, illness…*

The themes of this scene are shown when Clare tells her dad about the word subtle. She explains that this is how her teacher referred to her card, but she isn’t able to explain the word to her father (rather, she has to show him). This shows the bond Clare and her father share. It is also the final conversation they have.

**Key quotations:**

* “aye hen, subtle”

**Language**

In the scene, Clare tries to explain to her dad what subtlety is.

**Key quotations:**

* “Ah pressed doon on his palm. The imprint of ma finger left sparkly wee trails of light.”

The **connotations** of light are happiness and joy, the only things Clare wants for her terminally ill father. By imprinting the glitter onto his hand she shares her child-like joy with him, possibly trying to counteract his illness.

Key Scene: “Subtle”

**Symbolism**

*Hands = connection, glitter = life*

The use of symbolism in this scene shows that Clare and her dad are connected physically and emotionally as they touch hands. The glitter is also symbolic and signifies light and life, which contrasts with Clare’s dull-skinned father who is lying on his death bed.

**Key quotations:**

* “The imprint of ma finger left sparkly wee trails a light.”
* “glitter wis finer and lighter”
* “his skin wis a terrible colour”

**Characterisation**

Clare is patient with her father when she explains what subtle means. She does this by taking his hand and imprinting glitter from her finger onto his palm. This shows Clare is mature and caring, taking time after school to talk to her father about her day. In some ways, Clare is like the parent and her father is like the child she cares for.

**Key quotations:**

* “Ah took his haun in mines”
* “Ah telt ma daddy about it that night efter school.”