

I say her phrases to myself  
in my head  
or under **the shallows of my breath,**  
**restful shapes moving.**

Quietly, but shallow breathing is also a symptom of anxiety

***The day and ever. The day and ever.***

Paradox. The train makes moving restful. The confusion echoes the confused feelings of the persona

Repetition mimics the movement of the train

The train this **slow** evening  
**goes down** England  
**browsing** for the right sky,  
**too blue** swapped for a **cool** grey.  
For miles I have been saying  
***What like is it***  
the way I say things when I think.  
**Nothing is silent. Nothing is not silent.**  
***What like is it.***

Broad vowels slow reading down, echoing the slowness of the journey away from home

Assonance highlighting more contradiction and confusion in the persona's feelings. Blue skies represent happiness, grey misery.

More contradiction – double negative perhaps reflects the persona's ambiguous feelings about leaving home.

Thin, sharp vowel contrast with broad vowels at the beginning of the stanza. Convey feeling of anxiety?

Only tonight  
I am **happy and sad**  
like a child  
who stood at **the end of summer**  
and dipped a net  
in a **green, erotic pond. *The day and ever. The day and ever.***  
I am **homesick, free,** in love  
with the way my mother speaks.

More contradiction, but using contrast in a more confident and positive way.

Beginning of one life and end of another. Nostalgia for the world of childhood but new world offers unplumbed depths of possibility to explore

Nostalgia. Ready for her new life, leaving the old one behind but still a support to her.

Repetition again emphasising that the journey is still in progress.