

Death of a Naturalist Quotations

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Quotes

*"There were dragonflies, spotted butterflies,
But best of all was the warm thick slobber
Of frogspawn..."*

Exp:

The boy enjoys watching all the insects and frogspawn in the flax-dam. It shows his childish joy and curiosity about nature's simple things.

*"Then one hot day...
With coudung in the grass the angry frogs
Invaded the flax-dam;"*

Exp:

This shows the change in the scene. Now, the boy thinks the calm place becomes dirty and full of angry frogs. It marks the boy's fear and loss of innocence.

*"The dam gross bellied frogs were cocked
On sods;"*

Exp: The poet describes the ugly, swollen frogs sitting on the ground. Now, they seem strange and threatening to the boy, no longer cute.

*"I sickened, turned, and ran. The great slime kings
Were gathered there for vengeance."*

Exp: The boy becomes afraid and disgusted by the frogs. He feels that nature is now angry and dangerous, not lovely anymore.

"If I dipped my hand the spawn would clutch it."

Exp:

This line shows the boy's imagination and fear. What was once fun now feels strange and scary to him.