



A visual representation of "Contrast" by Tammy Ho

Contrast Tammy Ho

He asked me to put the hairs
in a small yellow box. It was plastic,
with a catch at the front that clicked
when closed.

Every Sunday, I looked carefully
at my father's head
and plucked out the grey hairs
that hid sneakily

among the robust black ones.
He gave me twenty cents for each strand
until one day, a few years later,
the box was full

and there were still so many more to pluck.
Overcome with sadness, I said,
'Father, I don't want the money.'
He then began dyeing his hair

and in the bathroom sink every week
drips of black water
revealed that father was clawing
back his youth.

Fifteen years later, he
has stopped dyeing his hair,
worried that the chemicals
might harm his grandchildren

whom he often rests
on his shoulders,
proud now
to highlight the contrast.

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<https://www.asialiteraryreview.com/contrast>.
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Chan Chin Ching

Maryknoll Convent School
(Secondary Section)



I want to convey the love between the grandfather and his grandchildren through a cosy image. I drew the joyful moment of the grandfather enjoying his time with his grandchildren in his apartment.

The foreground consists of a hat, a bottle of black hair dye, a yellow plastic box and hair cutting tools, hidden far away from the mid-ground. They are references to how the grandfather has eventually given up dyeing his hair for his grandchildren and become proud to show his grey hair, and thus he rarely uses these tools now. The mid-ground features the grandfather and his grandchildren showing a close relationship through physical contact. Objects like photos that indicate his love for his grandchildren scatter in the picture. Perspective is used to guide the audience's attention through the elements drawn. Although a mix of warm and cool colours was used to show more contrast, the overall tone is warm. This creates a loving and harmonious atmosphere for the drawing.



Positive value(s) and attitude(s):

Family care and love

Positive message(s):

Treasure the joy with our family.