**Tally’s Blood by Anne Marie Di. Mambro**

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*The following excerpt is taken from Massimo’s monologue in Act One, Scene Fourteen, where he recalls events from WWII. This scene is based on real events: when Italian men living in Britain were arrested and deported.*

Then one morning these officers come in, set themselves up at this big table at one end of the room and one of them starts reading names off a list. He calls ‘Stasio Pedreschi’ and I goes forward with ma faither but the soldier says to me, ‘Wait till you’re called.’ I says, ‘But that’s ma faither’ – he says, ‘Stand back. Wait till you’re called.’ He tries to push ma faither into the line but ma faither is holding on to my arm. I can still feel his nails digging into me, he was holding on that tight. I says, ‘You cannie split us up. He’s ma faither. Let me go with him.’ He says, ‘Wait till you’re called. Now stand back, please.’ I looked at ma faither. He was that wee looking. I’d to wrench his hand off my arm. ‘You see and behave yourself, auld yin,’ I says, ‘and watch that tongue of yours.’ He says to me, ‘You alright for money, son?’ Next thing I know they’re marching them out and my name still hasn’t been called.

**A.**

**Answer questions in this section to demonstrate your understanding of the plot:**

1. Who is speaking in this extract?

Franco Massimo Hughie Luigi

1. What is happening in this extract?

One of the characters is enlisting to fight in WWII

One of the characters is being sent to a different regiment of the army

One of the characters is being deported

One of the characters is going home to their family

1. What happens to this character’s father next?

He goes AWOL from the army

He is deported to Italy

He dies

We never find out what happens to him

**B. Answer questions in this section to demonstrate your understanding of the language used:**

1. In a play, when one character delivers a long speech, this is called a:

monologue

theme

dialogue

symbol

1. This character’s language includes some words which reveal that he is a Scots speaker. Type in four of these words in the spaces below:

Learners may identify any four of the following words: ma, faither, cannie, wee, auld, yin.

1. Even though the speaker is talking about an event that happened in the past, he uses verbs which are in the present tense, e.g. ‘…I **goes** forward with ma faither…’.

This is a feature of Scots speech. Find four other examples of verbs which are in the present tense:

‘c\_\_e’ ‘s\_\_\_\_s’ ‘c\_\_\_\_s’ ‘s\_\_\_s’

come starts calls says

1. The word choice used in this extract convey the characters’ feelings. Read over the following phrases, focussing on the words in bold. Then match the word in bold to its connotations. Pick at least two connotations for each word:

‘…his nails **digging** into me…’

‘…He was that **wee** looking…’

‘…to **wrench** his hand off my arm…’

desperation fear aggression vulnerability

anxiety determination joy frailty

helplessness effort force weakness

Extension Activity:

1. With reference to the extract above, discuss how the writer uses language to portray the vulnerability of these characters.

Possible answers may include:

* this big table: The officiousness/authority of the officers;
* Wait till you’re called/Stand back. Wait till you’re called: Commands given by the officers convey their authority/Massimo’s subordination;
* push (ma faither):indicating aggression/force/lack of consideration;
* holding on: helplessness, childlike;
* digging (into me): desperation, fear;
* (holding on that) tight: fear, helplessness, desperation;
* You cannie (split us up): pleading, begging, helplessness;
* (that) wee (looking): helplessness, frailty, weakness, feebleness;
* Next thing I know: bewilderment, confusion, helplessness;
* marching (them out): force, subordination, authority, helplessness.