**I am Very Bothered**

1 I am very bothered when I think

of the bad things I have done in my life.

Not least that time in the chemistry lab

when I held a pair of scissors by the blades

5 and played the handles

in the naked lilac flame of the Bunsen burner;

then called your name, and handed them over.

O the unrivalled stench of branded skin

as you slipped your thumb and middle finger in,

10 then couldn't shake off the two burning rings. Marked,

the doctor said, for eternity.

Don't believe me, please, if I say

that was just my butterfingered way, at thirteen,

of asking you if you would marry me.

**Guiding Questions:**

How does the structure of the poem correspond to the overall meaning of the text?

What atmosphere is the writer trying to create?