



[Sowing the Seed by Rhona Gorringe - Setting the Scene](#)

It's autumn. The sound of farm machinery ploughing the fields and planting for the next season entices Rachel out into the cold to watch. As she does so, she ponders on her past and wonders about the changes that the next year will bring.

Helpful Vocabulary and Phrases

They've started already
I heard them before I got up
Mating ritual with two great balletic beasts bowing
A grunt
A knife clattered
Ploughing!
Her husband said
When you were little, eh, on your Dad's farm?
Coat
Leaned on the field gate
Screaming seagulls swooped in delicate tracery
Mirror blades
Churned the stubbled field
Sweet tang of a soil she could almost taste
Autumn
The low sunsets
Skeletal branches and desolate landscape
Tattered leaves
She had no liking for this oft-quoted
A second tractor, with harrow and drill
Shedding seed into the trenches
The earth to recoup its strength
Fertiliser
Rotation went on relentlessly
Her father's words
Be gentle with the earth
Whiff of diesel
Newly turned clods
She and Joe had created