

The Role of Connotations

Those Winter Sundays

by Robert Hayden, revised by Rick Mulkey

My father got up early on Sundays
and put his clothes on in the cold,
then with cracked hands that ached
from labor in the weekday weather made
stove fires grow. No one every thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,
and slowly I would rise and dress,
fearing the constant angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him,
who had driven out the cold
and polished my good shoes as well.
What did I know at that moment
Of love's stern and lonely promises.

Those Winter Sundays

by Robert Hayden (original)

Sundays too my father got up early
and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,
then with cracked hands that ached
from labor in the weekday weather made
banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.

I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.
When the rooms were warm, he'd call,
and slowly I would rise and dress,
fearing the chronic angers of that house,

Speaking indifferently to him,
who had driven out the cold
and polished my good shoes as well.
What did I know, what did I know
of love's austere and lonely offices?

List six differences between the two versions.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Which changes affect the connotations of the words? What connotations are in the original poem that the changes in the Mulkey version remove?
