

I agree with the statement that Ciaran is cruel. His detached and brutal nature is highlighted when he 'rammed the blade with a delighted flourish' into a fish. The fish is a symbol of Ciaran's savagery and violence- the fish did not need to be killed in that way, and seems to be more Ciaran's desire to show off his new knife, and to brag about how special it is to his brother. It could be a threatening gesture, one that is meant to intimidate Niall.

I agree with the statement that Ciaran is cruel. His detached and brutal nature is highlighted when he 'rammed' his specialist knife 'with a delighted flourish' into the fish he caught. This description suggests that Ciaran hasn't thought twice about killing the fish, and reveals a savagery in Ciaran's character. On the surface, you may consider this act as simply the writer showcasing Ciaran's brutality, yet underneath we see the writer is using the fish as a symbol for Niall- who has suffered at the hands of his brother. Both Niall, and the fish, are innocent and helpless, and subjected to Ciaran's violence for the sake of his sadistic pleasure. Through the use of this symbolism, the image of Ciaran as a villainous and untrustworthy character is fortified, and thus prepares the reader for his later death- seeing Niall's actions as reactionary, and even a preemptive defensive move, to protect himself from further attacks for his brother.

In this story the two brothers argue and have a fight and this is why Niall lets Ciaran die. Niall is not like Ciaran and this is why they argue. When two people are different they argue and won't get on, and then you have problems, and they have problems because Niall kills Ciaran- by letting him die. This is murder or manslaughter, and he would probably go to prison again, especially because he already went before and the writer does this to show how Ciaran has made Niall evil and it comes back like karma because Niall then kills Ciaran and Ciaran probably wasn't expecting that and the writer surprises you- it is a twist as from the beginning you probably thought if anyone would die it would be Niall.

I agree with the statement that Ciaran is cruel. He kills a fish and afterwards 'Niall felt like the worm- trapped and pathetic; at the mercy of someone bigger, stronger, harder. Fire waded up inside, and then washed away again. He went to speak, to ask Ciaran what he'd been doing with himself all these years, but the words vanished on his tongue...still the silence hung between them.' The 'fire' suggests he is angry. But he doesn't feel he can say anything- this could be because he is frightened of Ciaran and scared of him.

