

English 12 Poetry

Scale Point: 3

Comment

This paper was awarded a 3 because although there is no misunderstanding of the poem, the response is simplistic and repetitive, depending heavily on quotations.

In "High School Senior" by Sharon Olds the speaker's daughter is leaving home to go to college. The speaker cannot imagine the house without her daughter "I try to see this house without her, ... but I can't" and the speaker cannot determine if the daughter is just going to college or is leaving for good "but I feel as if I cannot tell the difference between her leaving for college and our parting forever". The speaker remembers that her daughter was always around "like food or air she was there" but understands that her daughter is seventeen and free "My daughter is free and she is in me" and that she was lucky to have her daughter around for seventeen years "There are creatures whose children float away at birth, and those who throat-feed their young for weeks and never see them again" and that she could have shown her daughter her love when she had the chance "my love of her is in me, moving in my heart. Changing Chambers – like something poured from hand to hand, to be weighed and then reweighed."