

English 12 Poetry

Scale Point: 4

Comment

This paper was awarded a 4. It displays an accurate though not insightful analysis of the poem. Errors are present but not distracting. Writing and integration of quotations are competent.

Sharon Olds shows the reader in "High School Senior" a mother's view of her daughter leaving for college. The narrator pulls us into feeling her emotions and feelings at the beginning of the poem, and shows the reader her realization of the situation at the end. The mother emotionally says, "I try to see/this house without her, ... but I can't." (lines 13/14 to 18) She tries to imagine the house without the daughter but because she is so emotionally attached she can't. The poem portrays her feelings that she will be alone without her offspring. Nearing the ending of the poem the mother realizes that up to that point she had been blessed to have had her child with her for seventeen years. She compares herself to, "creatures whose children float away/at birth, and those who throat-feed their young/for weeks and never see them again." (lines 24-26) The mother knows she has had her child for a long time, and so also realizes that her daughter will always be with her, "my love/of her is in me," (line 27,-28) She knows her daughter will stay in her heart. In conclusion, the mother grows over the period of time in the poem from feeling alone to realizing her daughter will always stay in her heart.