

English 12 Poetry

Scale Point: 5

Comment

This paper was awarded a “5” because it illustrates a strong grasp of the poem; it reflects a strong command of the conventions of language while lacking the sophistication indicative of a “6” paper.

In this poem the speaker experiences many different feelings which eventually lead to a sense of realization. This poem exhibits a feeling of redemption, as the speaker begins from a place of fear and loss and then rises to a place of confidence and understanding.

The poem, “High School Senior,” opens with the speaker reminiscing of her daughters up-bringing. The speaker then expresses feelings of loss and emptiness with the realization that her daughter is going to college. This is expressed in lines 11-14, “I say “college,” but I feel as if I cannot tell the difference between her leaving for college and our parting forever – I try to see this house without her,”.

As the speaker nears the end of this poem she expresses her feelings much more positively and hopeful. This technique gives the reader of sense of redemption and peace. The speaker’s realization of constant love and the fact that her daughter is free, yet still moving in her heart is clearly understood in lines 26-28, “My daughter is free and she is in me – no, my love of her is in me, moving in my heart,”.