

English 12 Poetry

Scale Point: 6

Comment

This paper was awarded a 6 because it is clearly a superior response. The discussion is insightful and thought provoking. The vocabulary is sophisticated and powerful. The sentence structure is varied. Although there are errors in the integration of references, they do not detract from the overall effectiveness of the response.

Children do not remain children forever. As they reach adulthood, their parents (who have nurtured them, supported them, and raised them from infancy) are no longer needed in the same capacity. The young adults must go their own way in the world, independent from their parents.

The mother in this poem has reached this parting of ways. It is bittersweet. The mother loves her daughter, and cherishes her experiences of motherhood. She recognizes how she has been blessed by the presence of her daughter, as opposed to the “creatures whose children float away at birth, and those who throat-feed their young for weeks and never see them again” (lines 24-26). At the same time, her daughter’s impending departure saddens her (lines 11-18). Her daughter is a profound part of her life, (“like food or air she was there,” line 10). References to how she gave birth (“this being who formed within me,” line 5, “like an ??? she had come out of history slowly, through me...”, line 7-8) illustrate how they are linked physically, not only emotionally, and spiritually. The daughter is so great a part of her mother’s life that the mother tries “to see this house without her... but I can’t” (line 15 and 18). This contrasts with the way that the mother could not comprehend life with her daughter, during her pregnancy (lines 18-21). Indeed, her relationship with her daughter is changing, and will not be the same. Yet, even if her daughter is not there, in the same house, the mother knows that she will always carry her love (lines 27-30)