

## Essay walkthrough

Learning Intention; I can identify and use strategies to help me write critically about a text I am studying

### Selecting the right essay task

Choose a poem which has a strong message.

Consider the whole poem, and by referring to poetic techniques explain how the strong message is explored.

### Picking out the key words

strong message

poetic technique



Plath suggests throughout her use of imagery, alliteration and structure in "You're" that mothers have a strong emotional bond with their unborn child and that pregnancy is a unique experience.

### Identifying your main points in brief and Matching points to your quotes

Through which techniques (that convey which specific emotions) does Plath convey her strong message?

- 1) From the beginning a happy and light-hearted tone is used to convey her message...
- 2) However much Plath may be anticipating the arrival of her baby there are clearly aspects of pregnancy that she dislikes...
- 3) On the whole though the poem's overarching message is conveyed positively, even wittily..
- 4) Plath clearly has high hopes for her unborn baby...

Point One:  
Quote 1  
and 2

Point Two:  
Quotes  
4 + 6

Point  
Three:  
Quotes  
5 + 7

Point Four:  
Quote 9

<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Must have...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Task</li> <li>✓ Author</li> <li>✓ Reference to Techniques</li> <li>✓ Summary and comments on structure</li> </ul> <p><b>Should have...</b></p> <p>Evaluative language</p>	<p>In her poem, "You're", Sylvia Plath conveys the message that there is a strong emotional bond that exists in the unique experience that is pregnancy.</p> <p>Plath uses many poetic techniques such as unusual and unexpected similes, metaphors and sound techniques to give us this idea. You're is a free verse poem, written by Plath during or shortly after her pregnancy with her first child. There are two nine line stanzas which cleverly mirrors the nine month gestation period of pregnancy.</p>
<p><u>Point</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ States the focus of the paragraph, links to the question and uses evaluative language/context to set up the evidence that will follow.</li> </ul>	<p>From the beginning of the poem Plath conveys the message that the bond between mother and unborn baby is unique. The reader is uplifted from the <u>very first line</u> by her description of her baby and a happy and light-hearted tone is used to convey her message.</p>
<p><u>Evidence 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Quote directly from the text.</li> </ul> <p><b>** Lay out in the same way as the poem does</b></p> <p><b>** Take a new line for a quote longer than a few words</b></p>	<p>"Clownlike, happiest on your hands"</p>
<p><u>Analysis 1</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Describe the effect of the technique used by the writer and explain its impact.</li> </ul>	<p>Here Plath establishes to the reader the warm feelings of love and excitement she has for her. "Clownlike" reveals to the reader that, even before this poem begins...(develop analysis using notes). The reader is further encouraged by Plath's implication that...(develop analysis using notes). This is highlighted by the metaphor "feet to the stars"...(develop analysis using notes).</p>
<p><u>TRANSITIONAL WORD/PHRASE</u></p> <p><u>Evidence 2</u></p>	<p>Similarly, a positive tone is conveyed with the line, "snug as a bud and at home"</p>
<p><u>Analysis 1</u></p>	<p>This reveals the sense of safety Plath feels the baby has inside her ...(develop analysis using notes)</p>
<p><u>Response</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Tie up the paragraph by evaluating and linking what you have said to the task/themes/your opinion</li> </ul>	<p>Therefore in the first few lines Plath (use words of task)... and leaves the reader feeling (make an evaluative comment)....</p>

*Critical essays ought to have 4-5 paragraphs that follow the above layout.*

Transitional words and phrases

Learn and use linking words and phrases to help give your essay a clear line of thought.

<b>Comparison</b>	<b>Contrast</b>	<b>Intensification</b>
In the same way In like manner Likewise Similarly	Yet Nonetheless On the contrary In contrast Nevertheless	Indeed Of course Without doubt Surely
<b>Time</b>	<b>Addition</b>	<b>Exemplification</b>
Immediately Subsequently After Following	Furthermore In addition Besides Lastly Finally	To (further ) illustrate To (continue to) demonstrate Specifically
<u>Writing A Conclusion</u>  Must have... Title  Author  Return Focus of the essay  Should have... Evaluative language	Through the poem Plath uses different poetic techniques and tone to give us an image of the love she has for her unborn child and the true connection she had from the very start. It tells us and gives us an idea of how we will feel to our own child when we are pregnant, all thing things that go through our head or have we have done it what it was like.	