

## STRONG MESSAGE ESSAY (PUPIL RESPONSE EXAMPLE)

A poem I think deals with a strong message is 'You're' by Sylvia Plath. The strong message that this poem conveys is the power of the love and connection between a mother and her unborn child. Plath uses many poetic techniques to give us this idea.

This is an unusual poem for Plath who usually wrote pieces that are much darker and bleaker in tone. The poem was written during her pregnancy with her first child. This poem is filled with optimism and nervous to give us the idea of the love she has for her unborn child and how connected she feels to it.

Plath start of her poem with a simile 'clownlike happiest of your hands' this giving us the idea in our head that the baby is perhaps is upside down in a handstand shape in her stomach. She further goes on to say 'feet to the stars' this confirms that the baby is in a handstand shape. This vision gives us the idea that she is paying attention to this baby and they have a real connection.

She makes her love more obvious when she goes on and says 'thumbs down on the dodo's mode' this tells us that she is going through with her pregnancy, she doesn't want this baby to be extinct 'dodo' bird. This word choice tells us she has a real connection with this baby to want to keep it and that she loves it to carry on through this pregnancy.

The word choice used 'O high rise my little loaf' tells us that the baby is growing like a 'loaf' of bread. By using the word of 'O' tells us that she is sighing with relief because her baby is growing and 'rising in her womb. This tells us she loves this baby because she wouldn't sit and watch it 'rise' if she didn't love it. Also the fact she is sighing is also indicating that she is connected to this baby and she is happy about it growing.

Plath using a simile to describe how beautiful she thinks her unborn child is going to be 'sung as a bud' this phrase would usually 'snug as a bug'. She doesn't want to associate her baby with an ugly bug, so she changes it to a 'bud'. A bud is a flower and she thinks her baby is going to blossom into a beautiful baby just like a flower. She loves this baby because she wouldn't be thinking about what the baby would look like if she didn't. She certainly wouldn't be saying it was going to be beautiful.

One line that create the tone that she is nervous is 'Jumpy as a Mexican bean' this could mean to think it could mean that the baby is jumping around in her stomach, but it also means that she is a little bit 'jumpy' she is nervous about this unborn child. This tells us they have a strong connection because she wouldn't be nervous if she didn't feel love towards this baby and didn't have bond between them.

Towards the end of the poem she goes on to describe how she thinks this baby is 'right like a well done sum' just like in school you get a tick if you get a 'sum' right she is giving herself a tick because she thinking having this baby was the best thing for her and she is so proud of herself. This tells us she loves this baby because she wouldn't think her baby was the 'right' thing to do if she didn't.

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.

Word Count 680

### EMOTIONAL RESPONSE ESSAY (PUPIL RESPONSE EXAMPLE)

In her poem “You’re” Sylvia Plath creates an emotional response in the reader as she is showing her emotion towards her baby during her pregnancy. Our response to Sylvia Plath is influenced through many of her creative poetic techniques.

The reader is uplifted by the description of the baby in the first line; “Clownlike happiest on your hands.” ‘Clownlike’ suggests humour, fun and happiness. This makes the reader aware of her love and we can feel her emotion towards her unborn baby.

The positive tone continues when she says;

“Feet to the stars” This could be implying that Plath can feel the baby constantly tossing and turning in the womb. This creates an emotional response in the reader as we can sense her enjoyment and excitement, other pregnant women or mothers will be able to relate to her and how she was feeling.

However much Plath may be anticipating the arrival of her unborn baby, there are clearly aspects of pregnancy which she dislikes, she makes this clear through the simile; “Wrapped up in yourself like a spool” Here she may be implying that the baby is self-absorbed and using her body for its own needs. Plath may very well feel like a mere receptacle.

“Mute as a turnip, from Fourth of July to All Fools Day” This implies that the foetus is clueless to the outside world. It suggests that Plath may resent the baby and all the responsibilities that she will now have because of pregnancy. It seems as though the responsibility is proving too much for Plath to handle. The readers may feel sympathy here for her as many women have experienced the same feelings.

Plath’s comments are conveyed positively or even wittily when she says;

“Jumpy as a Mexican bean.” This simile could again be referring to the movement of the foetus and could also be mimicking the nerves of the mother.

The witty imagery is continued with her simile;

“Like a sprat in a pickle jug” To pickle means to ‘preserve’ here Plath may be implying that the womb is the preserver.

Plath’s high hopes for her child are made clear when she says;

“O high riser my little loaf” This relates to the saying, “Bun in the oven” Her possessive pronoun ‘my’ indicates that she enjoys growing the baby inside her. The double ‘L’ sound is soothing and soft. It is clear that Plath believes her baby will do well in the world.

Her aspirations for the foetus are shown once more in the last line;

“A clean slate with your own face on” this is a direct personal association. She is implying that everything in the past no longer matters. A clean slate is a new beginning for the baby and possibly for Sylvia Plath. I believe that it is clear to the reader that Plath knows her unborn baby is a new, and hopefully happy, chapter in her life and that this is a sign to start over.

Throughout her poem "You're" Sylvia Plath creates an emotional response in the reader. She has cleverly written her poem and through many imaginative and unique metaphors, similes, imagery and sound techniques we, the reader, can feel all the emotions she does whilst reading "You're." During the poem we feel excitement, happiness and even sympathy for Sylvia Plath as she tells the story of her experience of pregnancy with her first child. She expresses that pregnancy is special and that we will all have different experiences of our own.

WORD COUNT 585

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE - ESSAY PLAN

Choose a poem which describes a person's experience. Explain how the poetic techniques used to describe the experience make the poem more interesting.

*Introduction (colour coded to show how it addresses each part of the question)*

A poem which deals with a personal experience is 'You're' by Sylvia Plath. Throughout her poem Plath uses striking and unusual imagery and verse structure to describe the feelings of excitement and unease she had throughout her pregnancy which is interesting for the reader because Plath gives us an insight into what is a very special and close relationship - the one that exist between her and her unborn child. - thus fully conveying her central concern and main theme of the poem - the happiness of bringing a new life into the world.

### MAIN BODY PARAGRAPH 1 EXAMPLE

The writer uses a simile well to describe her own experiences of pregnancy and conveys her central concern and main them of the happiness of bring a new life into the world. The first instance of this is on line one when she writes 'clownlike happiness on

## GENERAL MAIN BODY PARAGRAPH GUIDANCE

- Point - Topic sentence
  - Try to include name of writer/technique/words of task/evaluative language/theme

(The writer/Plath/The poet/Sylvia Plath) uses (TECHNIQUE)  
(cleverly/skillfully/effectively/well/successfully) to describe her own experiences of pregnancy.

- Context +Quote = Evidence
  - POEM EXAMPLE - The first instance of this is on line one when she writer, '\_\_\_\_\_'
- Analysis - explaining what the impact of the technique is
  - This(state technique) / here the writer shows/explains/gives us/makes(helps us to us understand/helps us to see/ suggests/implies/ emphasizes/
- Evaluation - you saying how successful that is and you personally responding back to the task  
At this point the reader feels/thinks/believes....as a result of the writers (LINK TO EXACT WORDS OF TASK).

'your hands' when talking about her unborn baby. She continues this by saying 'feet to the stars'. This image gives us the idea the baby is in a funny position and helps us

understand that Plath is in a sage in her pregnancy when she feels her baby moving a lot. The word 'clownlike' suggests that Plath is in a happy mood since clown are happy and silly and are often associated with children 'feet to the stars' is also very positive because it suggests that Plath has high hopes for her baby and its future. At this point the reader feels happy on behalf of Plath and her baby as a result of her use of these positive words which fully conveys her central concern and main theme of the happiness of bring a new life into the world. to describe her own experiences of pregnancy.

MAIN BODY PARAGRAPH 2 - Examples of POINT and RESPONSE (YOU DO THE REST)

POINT - Plath continues to describe her own experiences of pregnancy which keep the theme of the happiness of bringing a new life into the world through her use of interesting word choice. She describes the unborn baby as 'moon skulled'. Here Plath helps us to see....

RESPONSE - At this point the reader feels happy on behalf of Plath and her baby as a result of her use of these positive words which fully conveys her central concern and main theme of the happiness of bring a new life into the world. to describe her own experiences of pregnancy.

Now continue the essay yourself...