

## Compare and contrast how three poets explore the theme of childhood.

I am going to compare the content, language and structure of 3 different poems, half past two, piano and my parents kept me from children who were rough. The piano key themes are a memory of his childhood of his mum and a relationship between a mother and a child, "My parent's" are about a relationships between a child and a mother, the mother try to keep him away from being a bully or getting bullied and "The half past two" is about a child's perspective on the adult world whilst all three poem explore the theme of childhood, they have different approaches to the subject.

In the piano poem, the speaker is an old man who is talking about when he was a child, in this poem it is written in first person by D.H Lawrence.

In each stanza he can hear a women singing and make him think of his beloved mother when he was a child.

The structure of piano are in each stanzas at the end of the line are rhyme to other sentence. The length of a stanza are long like the piano note, in each stanza have four lines which the first line goes steady and get faster when it get to the end of a stanza. The word 'insidious' is a hard word for 10 years old child to understand, so that mean is written from grownup's point of view. The enjambment relate to the tempo of piano. In The poem it rhyme to give a rhyming scheme as aa, bb, cc, dd, ee, ff by using couplets, the first and second lines rhyme in each stanza, the third and fourth lines rhyme in each stanza. These make the poem trying to expressing himself in an orderly fashion or a rhyming way and it rhyme to give the rhythms so that it would not lose the interests of the reader.

In the poem half past two are written by U.A. Fanthorpe, she portrays the memories of a child who had done "SOMETHING VERY WRONG" and doesn't understand the time. Where it said "Something Very Wrong" it starts with a capital letter of each word this is for emphasis. The child knows a lot of time "Getting up time, time you were offline and T.V time" but he doesn't really know the Actual Time like the "half past two time", you can tell that the boy is about 6 or 7 years old because of him not being able to tell the time. It is written in third person.

In this poem have eleven stanzas which have four lines in each stanza, the first stanza of half past two begins with "ONCE UPON A SCHOOLTIME", which it's already tell us that the poem will gives you the impression that the rest of the poem will be in quite a childish way of talking and also creates a kind of fairytale atmosphere.

In the half past two are presented though language. In language is used personification in the last line of the poem "Where time hides tick-less waiting to be born". Fanthorpe is using childlike language structure, it is very simple and from Childs perspective such as "little eyes and little legs for walking". It used the similes and metaphors "smell of old chrysanthemums" and sound: "silent noise of his hangnail" Which it gives a sense of smell and sound, it gives the readers what it was like to be in that world with out being able to see it.

In the poem 'My Parents kept me from children who were rough', written by Stephen Spender, he writes about a childhood that is full of bullies how it affected the child. It's written in first person who he is describing himself being teased and abused by others child when he was young. The poems create sympathy towards the characters. In the language used for "My parents...", the communication with the reader is rather difficult because adult language it had been

used. In this poem have three stanzas and in each of stanzas have four lines which it said "And who threw words like stones and who wore torn clothes". I think it tells us that the child didn't really wear nice clothes but it sound like the clothes is kind of ripped and dirty and where it said "They ran in the street and climbed cliffs and stripped by the country streams" it seem to me that the child in the school are naughty acting like an animals. The mood of the poem that the reader is left with were that the atmosphere changes when the child was feared "I feared more than tigers their muscles like iron And their jerking hands and their knees tight on my arms", it make the reader feel like something is terrifying going to happen to the child but towards the end the mood changes into forgiveness which when he said "I longed to forgive them, yet they never smiled". The metaphor is used to create the atmosphere of fear.

In conclusion the three poets presented the childhood all in a very different situation way, but the same key point. All of them had some related features as well as contrasting. The language has relate structure of the use of comparisons in piano and my parents kept me from children who were rough while fanthorpe's language is completely contrast to the other two poems.

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