

Poetry Anthology

Compare how emotion is presented in "She Walks in Beauty" vs "A Child to his sick Grandfather"

Both "She Walks in Beauty" and "A Child to his sick Grandfather" present emotions as a raw intrinsic emotion within humans and one that is particularly predominant in relationships – taking both affectionate and sorrowful forms. Whereas Byron's poem explores the sheer emotions with love at first sight, Baille explores the melancholic emotions one witnesses upon the end of a parental relationship.

Both poem employ an effective form and structure to allude to their objectives. Whereas Byron uses an ABABAB rhymes scheme, reflecting the one-sided nature of his love without the mention of "I", Baille uses rhyming couplets to show the harmonious nature that once existed in this parental love, but the missing syllable at the end of each line makes the reader sense some tension. Further, Byron uses iambic tetrameter which builds intensity but is also bewitching to the reader, immersing then in the mesmerisation Byron was in. In contrast, the second person address in Baille's poem creates a more personal, conversational tone, and it further mirrors the tone of an elegy, much different to Byron's poem which creates a tone of worship to show the beauty he saw. This relates to the difference in love both poets experienced, with Baille being confronted with her Father's death at 16, yet Byron who based the poem on his incestuous relationship with his cousin Anne Beatrix Wilmot.

Both poems explore the severity and deep nature of emotions in relationships. Byron uses really affectionate language such as in "so soft, so calm" to describe the beautiful character of this lady, who was "serenely sweet" and "pure", these emotions have him in a trance-like state, stuck in time to just admire her, yet "pure" is a reference to her virginity, linking to Byron's misogynistic mindset in objectifying women based off their chastity, this incessant love links to him being part of the "Early Romantic" group who notoriously based emotions off of their hearts rather than heads. In a different manner, Baille explores the sadness present within a relationship. The rhetorical question 'You will not die and leave us then?' poignantly highlights the childlike naivety she feels towards her Father's death. Furthermore, whereas Byron is rather encapsulated by his emotions, Baille using reporting verbs in "they say", to show her lack of acknowledgement. Love for her father is also endless, with the refrain being "dad", showing how everything comes back to him. Both poets were part of the "Romantics" movement and thus both are powerful in showing the reader how great the emotions were.

Both poems also show the effect these emotions have on those experiencing them. Byron, who is clearly mesmerised by the beauty of this woman, sees her "like the night of cloudless climes and starry skies", and whilst this night could represent temptation and lust, it serves more as a warning to not be trapped by unending love. Byron even uses religious language in "heaven gaudy day denies" to show how this

Compare the Manhunt to LBSM

Difficult Relationships

Both Manhunt, written by Simon Armitage, and La Belle Dame, written by John Keats, explore difficult relationships. However whereas Armitage does this through the effects of shell shock on Eddie, Keats uses the impossible infatuation of the knight to represent struggle.

Both poets employ an effective form and structure to portray the difficulty of their relationships. Armitage uses couplets initially yet later uses fragments, symbolising the how their relationship has been torn apart by a physically fragmented body. Keats however uses a ballad of 12 quatrains which although creates a playful tone at first later becomes monotonous to the reader, he also uses iambic tetrameter which although creates harmony – reflecting the knight's love – is broken at the end of each stanza – symbolic of the Faery cutting off the knight, this is jarring for the reader. Armitage also explores suffering, by using a lack of capitalisation to show the struggle Eddie's wife had to endure, however whereas their relationship starts to mend, the cyclical structure of 'La Belle Dame' highlights how the knight is still trapped in his infatuation. This is a projection of Keat's personal life where he was unable to marry his neighbour Fanny Brawne, whereas the struggle in Manhunt shows of Laura, his wife, who was a peacekeeper.

Both poems explore the pleasant aspects of their relationship. In the Manhunt, the narrator recalls the "passionate nights and intimate days", "passion" and "intimate" have sexual connotations showing their closeness, and "nights and days" shows how their relationship wasn't limited by time constraints, as opposed to during the Bosnian war. Keats also uses sexual connotations with "set her on my pacing steed", but also uses ethereal language in "roots of relish sweet" and "manna-dew", this heavenly allusion (as the food is from the Bible) shows his intoxication in love. Furthermore, Armitage references that Laura did eventually "come close" showing their gradual healing, however the knight doesn't fulfil his love, rather the circular imagery evoked in "garlands and bracelets" shows that he was trapped in the same endless cycle, this could reflect Keats's struggle with his opium addiction.

Both poets however also show the struggle in relationships. Armitage uses militaristic language in "trace, climbing skirting" not only show how rehabilitation was like war for Eddie, but also the persistent trauma from shell shock. He also mentions the fragility of their relationship with "porcelain collar bone". Keats however uses a sinister tone in "Elfin grot" and "Evil lair" to make the reader liken her to a Femme Fatale, evoking sympathy for the knight. Both poets also use the setting to convey difficulty. Armitage describes a "frozen river", a river is usually flowing and full of life but their relationship is cold and lifeless. Keats uses archaic language in "sedge has withered from the lake" to show how the knight's life is withering away. This is a projection of Keat's terminal tuberculosis to which he died.

Ultimately, both poems present difficult relationships, however whereas Eddie and Laura eventually have a perfect relationship, the tragic fate of Keats is more effective in showing the sadness of impossible love.