There are some moments in everyday life that are so beautiful people want to capture them with words to preserve them. One sweet feeling people want to capture is the feeling of love. Love is so powerful it can be overwhelming at first, especially for those who have never felt it in a romantic way before. At the beginning of a new romantic relationship, one may feel like nothing could go wrong or that the "newlywed phase" will never go away. Two poems that relate to this feeling are "How Do I Love Thee?" by Elizabeth Barrett Browning and "The Sun Rising" by John Donne. Both are about how powerful and all encompassing the feeling of love can be. A song that also relates to this feeling is "Tenerife Sea" by Ed Sheeran. This describes the moment you realize you've found the person who brings out the feeling of love within you. All three pieces give an insight into what it feels like to be utterly in love with another.

The poem "How Do I Love Thee?" describes what it feels like to truly love someone. The poet, Elizabeth Bonnett Browning, describes the ways she is passionate about her love. In lines 2-3 Browning says, "I love thee to the depth and breadth and height/ My soul can reach." This opens the poem showing just how much she cares about her love. Using such extremes like she did, demonstrates how deeply she feels. Her emotions are also shown in lines 12-14 when she says, "I love thee with the breath,/ Smiles, tears, of all my life; and, if God choose,/ I shall but love thee better after death" (Browning). These lines are very powerful because she states how even in the afterlife she will continue to love the other. Not even something as powerful and permanent as death can keep their love apart.

The song "Tenerife Sea" by Ed Sheeran is about the new feeling of love you develop for another. In the song, Sheeran describes slowly falling in love with aspects of a girl, until the end when he admits his feelings for her. He opens the song by singing, "You look so wonderful in your dress/ I love your hair like that/ The way it falls on the side of your neck/ Down your shoulders and back." He then goes on to sing, "You look so beautiful in this light/ Your silhouette over me/ The way it brings out the blue in your eyes/ Is the Tenerife Sea." At the very end he finishes the song by singing, "You look so wonderful in

your dress/ I love your hair like that/ And in a moment I knew you, Beth" (Ed Sheeran). The progression of the verses from beginning to end shows the progression of his love for his girlfriend. He goes from commenting on only her outer beauty, like her clothes and hair, to her silhouette and eyes, to finally admitting his love. This shows what it feels like to realize you're falling in love with someone. Ed Sheeran gives off a very confident feel in this song, especially when he declares his love. He makes me feel at peace with his descriptions which makes me relate to feeling the same emotion. In most cases, there is a transition from when you see someone a certain way to when you see them differently, and this song helps highlight what that is like when falling in love.

Written by John Donne, "The Sun Rising" is a poem that describes how powerful love can make one feel. He describes his love as being more forceful than the sun shining into his room in the morning. The poem makes me feel confident about his love and envious of his pridefulness. In lines 11-14 Donne writes, "Thy beams, so reverend and strong why shouldst thou think?/ I could eclipse and cloud them with a wink,/ But that I would not lose her sight so long" (Booth). He is putting down the strength of the sun because he doesn't believe it is as strong as his love for his partner. This shows how once you're in love with someone, it is such a strong feeling that you almost feel invincible.

Both these poems and the song represent how strong the feeling of love is, especially in the beginning of a relationship. As described by Sheeran, Doone, and Browning, love can be so powerful that nothing else seems to matter. When Browning says "I love thee to the level of every day's/ Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light" (5-6), she is truly showing how she loves her partner during the little quiet moments during the day or night, and not just because she feels forced to. This relates to Donne's poem in the way that throughout his piece he speaks solely about how powerful his love is for his partner. Ed Sheeran sings about beginning to feel this emotion throughout his song, until concluding at the end that he is, in fact, in love with his girlfriend.

True love is not a feeling that is felt very often. When someone does encounter it, it can make you feel invincible and like the happiness would never end. However, as passionate as it can make you, you know it is truly love when things get difficult and you still have those identical feelings for the other. In a relationship, familiar or romantic, things will not always be bright and happy. A lot of the time there are obstacles to overcome, but it is true when it is said that “nothing worth having ever comes easy.” Relationships are work, and if one feels as these three poets do about their partners, a relationship is bound to flourish in good times and bad.

Works Cited

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