

Josh Snyder

Clear introduction, suggesting the scope of the essay.

In earlier years women were undermined in society, they were seen as second class citizens, men of course being first. These women felt angry and frustrated, lonely and ~~unwanted~~ unappreciated. This is the point put across in these texts Poems by Sylvia Plath (Applicant, Medusa, A birthday present, Daddy and The Arrival of the bee box) and The Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare the famous playwright. They show the emotions and feelings of a woman and pure anger and frustration towards men for not being treated as the equals they are and deserve to be.

Reference to readers - could be developed further by explaining who these readers/viewers are.

I feel the ^{male} readers of these texts feel anger for these women (eventhough one is fictional) they may not have when they were written but they do now. The female readers feel lucky to be born out of that era, but it is not only women who are enraged but men feel angry also, because they feel ashamed to themselves men for the way women were treated was truly abhorring and would never be allowed now.

This is an interesting dimension to the argument. Remember though, the question is about the feelings of the women IN the texts.

In Plath's time, feminism wasn't really a well-understood concept. She is appreciated by feminists these days because she speaks so strongly in her own voice.

Sylvia Plath was a feminist and expressed her emotions through ~~the~~ her poems. These are her real thoughts, opinions and ~~experiences~~ experiences, "it is almost like her poems tell her the story like an autobiography. She loved to speak her mind eventhough it was frowned ~~up~~ upon in those days.

These observations are great - they would be further strengthened through reference to specific quotations.

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Josh Snyder

Sylvia Plath was born on the 27th of October 1932 in Boston, Massachusetts. She lived with her mother Aurelia Schober Plath and her father Otto Plath and siblings. She attended the Smith College and Newnham College, Cambridge. When Plath was eight her father died of diabetes, this happened a week and a half after her ~~eight~~ eighth birthday. When she was twenty she attempted to kill herself by crawling under her house and taking her mother's sleeping pills, she laid there unconscious for three days unfound. She survived and spent 6 months in a psychiatric care. This was her first known suicide attempt but it was not to be her last. During University she met her husband to be Ted Hughes, they married in 1956 and had two children Frieda and Nicholas. On the morning of February 11th 1963 a nurse (who was helping Plath due to depression suffered from she ~~was~~ was twenty) came to Plath's house 23 Fitzroy road near Primrose Hill, London, she had difficulty gaining ~~was~~ ~~the~~ access to the property and asked a workman to help her, she finally made it in and found Plath in the kitchen dead with her head in the oven. It was later ~~confirmed~~ confirmed that she died of carbon monoxide poisoning, she had sealed off the doors between her and the sleeping children with wet towels and clothes to stop the fumes from spreading. She had earlier left a note with a neighbour stating that he call

These facts about Plath are interesting, but they are not highly relevant to the questions unless you're able to use them to explore how Plath's voice is communicated in her poetry. These essays must be about the texts more than about the authors.

John Dryden

Dr John Morder she left it where she knew he would see it when he left for work. A few days earlier Dr John Morder a friend who lived quite close to Plath had prescribed her with some antidepressants. However years before another doctor had said she should stop taking them due to her being immune to them. So this presently shows that Plath was not a happy woman and had a very sad ~~the~~ and traumatic life.

This evidence needs to also be linked to her poetry - English is largely a study of texts, rather than people (which is history)

The writer of the Taming of the ~~Shrew~~ Shrew had an interesting life it may not have been as eventful as Plath's but is all the same quite effective. William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon he was the eldest son of ~~John~~ John and Mary Shakespeare in 1564. In 1584 at the age of 20 he married a woman from Stratford, near Stratford, called Anne Hathaway. They had three children Susanna (born in 1583) and twins Hamnet (~~was~~ born in 1585 and died in 1596 aged 11) and Judith (born in 1585). Shakespeare was first mentioned in London in 1592. Robert Greene another known playwright was rather jealous of Shakespeare. In 1595 he became a shareholder in the Lord Chamberlain's men. In 1599 the Swan Theatre opens on Bankside and performances are in open air. In 1610 he returns to Stratford from London. In 1616 he dies

You have an enormous wealth of historical information about Shakespeare as well, but again, this is only useful to you in a literature essay if you use this information to strengthen ideas you have about the texts themselves.

Josh Hayden

175 on his home in Stratford, nobody knows how he died but till this day it is a mystery.

23 Shakespeare wrote *The Taming of the Shrew* between 1589 and 1595. The character we are focusing on from this play is called Katherine.

Katherine is the daughter of Baptista, the sister of Bianca and the wife of Petruchio. In this play Katherine is portrayed as a shrew (hence the name), a rather unremembered and rude woman. Nobody wishes to marry her 'From all such devilish good hard deliver us'. This is a line spoken by Hortensio which is basically saying that Katherine is like a devil in disguise. This is the first significant 77 comparison in this ~~play~~ play.

Shakespeare shows the feelings of a woman by portraying her as unlovable i.e. Katherine. This is shown in my previous quotation. ~~In~~ In this play Katherine feels ~~unloved~~ angry and frustrated. She shows this in her behaviour towards ~~the~~ other people e.g. Petruchio, Bianca and sometimes her father. Petruchio says 'Good morning, Kate, for that's your name, I hear' Katherine replies 'Well have you heard, but something hard of hearing - 86 They call me Katherine that do talk to me!'

Good - a relevant point, supported by a quotation from the text.

John Dryden

This is basically showing Kate to be quite rude and formal towards a man who is to love her. Also, it has a slight hint of sarcasm towards Petruchio, suggesting Katharina is not convinced with what Petruchio is saying. Petruchio states 'Come, come you wisp! I'faith you are too crying! Katharina replies 'If I be ~~is~~ unspous'd best become my story.' Here it suggests that Petruchio has tried to insult Katharina by calling her a wisp, but Katharina is too smart for him and turns it around on Petruchio with a comeback, this implies that she is not easily returned. Petruchio 'What knows not where a wisp does wear his string? In his tail!' Katharina 'In his tongue!' Petruchio 'What's tongue!' This shows Katharina has the upper hand over Petruchio because she again has outsmarted him and is taking him for a fool. The way Katharina acts is not ~~the~~ any woman in previous times would have normally acted. If she spoke the way she did now she would only ~~be~~ be seen as speaking her mind and she definitely would not be undermined for it.

Expand on how this is rude or formal - what game is she playing?

Nice developed analysis - what does this tell us about her feelings?

Good clear analysis - this establishes Katharina as an intelligent, articulate woman

Reference to a contemporary context.

Josh Daylen

Sylvia Plath shows the feeling of a woman
by ~~submitting~~ writing about herself in her poems.
'It can sew, it can cook, it can talk, talk, talk'
These are ~~the~~ common Sterio types of a woman,
~~saying~~ that here ~~the~~ Plath is mocking the
Sterio type, almost questioning it, as if to say
why should we sew and cook, is it not our
right as humans to work and do other things like
men do. 'I do not want much of a present, anyway, this
year. After all I am alive only by accident. I would
have killed myself gladly that time any possible way'
I ~~think~~ think here she ~~is~~ is referring to her first
suicide attempt, because she survived only by
accident. In her poem Daddy she explains
the loss of her father as very ~~important~~ ^{trauma} to
her. 'At twenty I tried to die ~~and~~ and get
back, back, back to you. I thought even ~~the~~ the
bones would do! This is also referring to her
first suicide attempt.' I made a model of you,
A man in Buck with a Meinkampf book' (Meinkampf
were the men who were ~~the~~ Adolf Hitler's ultimate
races). This suggests that Plath was a very
disturbed woman. Because who would marry a
man just because they resemble ~~your~~ your father.
Also the repetition suggests the constant striving
to get the words out but you are too full
of emotion to construct your words and
sentences properly.
'Daddy, daddy, you. bawlerdy I'm through! This
quote is quite confusing because at one
point she is willing to die to get back
to her father and now she hates him

You're noticing the autobiographical content of her poetry with clarity - now this needs to be supported by deeper textual analysis. You must look into the language and how she uses it - for example using the pronoun "it" to refer to the stereotypical woman, thus dehumanising her.

This is not as unusual as you might think!

Reference to repetition - that's the level of language analysis that is needed.

Tom Hayden

That sounds a bit odd to me. Or she is finally admitting that she has let his death go.

I think that women were treated quite ~~horribly~~ terribly and should not have been treated as second class. I believe that the devices used to express feeling and emotion is quite effective, because while I was reading some of these poems and Sylvia Plath's biography I felt quite sorry and sad for her and what she went ~~thru~~ through. I think that other readers feel the same way and are quite determined to do something about it.

There are some good elements to this essay, while it was inconsistent, there were times when you made clear statements about women's emotion and linked those statements to facts about the authors, observations about the characters and links to the text itself. Sometimes you explored the language of the texts to strengthen your points and you made some references to the historical and contemporary contexts of the texts. You showed a clear awareness of the text types and the authors and their probable intentions.

To develop your work more:

- 1) You must remember to focus all paragraphs on the question
- 2) Every point you make must be supported by a quotation
- 3) Where possible, those quotations should be explored both for what they mean and also how their language strengthens that meaning
- 4) Avoid extended exposition of the author's biography, instead, use that detailed knowledge to strengthen the points you're making.
- 5) Link the devices used by the two authors - observing where they might be writing in similar ways about similar things or different ways about different things

14/30
Band 2

Nice conclusion - I think you're right on the button with that analysis, so instead of expressing it as a possibility - how about stating the idea with confidence (or if your thoughts are unsure, how about writing in terms of "one interpretation of this is...")

Josh

7 In earlier years women were underrepresented in
8 society, ^{they were} seen as second class citizens,
men of course being first. These women felt
angry and frustrated, lonely and unwanted. This
is ~~what is~~ the point put across in these
~~two~~ texts poems by Sylvia Plath (Applicant, Melancholy,
A birthday present, Daddy and The raven
of the bee box) and The taming of the
Shrew by William Shakespeare. It shows
the emotions of a woman and some anger
and frustration towards men. Also I feel
the readers of these ~~two~~ texts feel anger
for these women even though one is fictional,
they feel as though they are lucky they were
not born then, it is not only women,
men feel angered also, because they feel
advanced to call themselves men for
the way women were treated was truly
authoritarian and would never be allowed
now.

938 words

Josh

Katherine

- Daughter of ~~Donald~~ Dijkstra
- Sister of Bowen
- married Petrarcha
- Shrew (bully behavior ~~at~~ in those days);
now it would not be seen as
women speaking their mind.)
- lived in Parma, Italy
- quite petty but is quite rude,

page 59.