

PROJECT: ANALYSIS AND COMPARISON OF TWO POEMS

The poems listed below deal with such topics as philosophy, life, death, war, and love. They also contain striking visual images. Some of the poems can be compared and contrasted with one another. Here are the poems that you have read in this unit:

“Tell me O Swan, your ancient tale” by Kabir

“The Swan” by Rilke

“Spanish Dancer” by Rilke

“Your Laughter” by Pablo Neruda

“Birthplace” by Shaffarzadeh

“It’s This Way” by Nazim Hikmet

“Counting Small-boned Bodies” by Robert Bly

Choose two poems that you would like to write about. Analyze each poem.

To help outline and organize this paper, answer these questions:

- Who is the speaker in each of these poems?

A:

B:

What is the speaker’s tone?

A:

- B:

Is there a conflict in the poem? If so, describe it.

- A:
- B:

Is there a message in the poem? If so, explain it.

- A:
- B:

- What do each of the poems have in common?

- What is different about each of the poems?

- A:
- B:

- Which **literary devices** are used in the poems (simile, metaphor, personification, imagery, alliteration...)? Circle any literary devices found in both of the poems.

- A:
-
- B:

- What does the speaker hope to achieve in each of the poems?

- A:
- B:
-

Directions:

Using the two poems of your choosing, write a clear, concise, two hundred and fifty word essay that compares and contrasts the two poems.

- Look at how you answered the above questions.
 - Which answers were similar?
 - Which answers were different?
- Group your answers into the outline below.

Outline:

Introduction:

Give the title, author and a brief summary of each poem.

Thesis: These poems have some similarities and some differences.

Body Paragraphs:

Topic Sentence: The poems have many things in common.

-Go through (using the questions you answered above) and explain

ALL similarities found in the poems.

Topic Sentence: The poems also have a number of differences.

-Go through (using the questions you answered above) and explain

ALL differences found in the poems.

Conclusion:

You have some options here:

-Explain what you learned from the poems that you can use in your life.

-Explain which poem you liked more and why.