

Student Essay on Compare the Way Poets Have Written about Death in Two Poems in Your Selection

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Essay

Ted Hughes, born in the 1930's, was strongly influenced and inspired by his father's experience with war. This was his motivation to write poetry based on wartime such as "channel firing" and "thistles." However, other poems reflect a more general sense of relevance which is also obtained in "thistles." On the other hand, Emily Bronte's "cold in the earth", is a traditional poem which deals with the death of a loved one and the effect on a person's life. Both poets use different forms of symbols and imagery to obtain the effect they desired, which ultimately resulted similarly.

Both poems reflect the cyclical relationship of Death and Life. Hughes shows us that it is a necessary part in the grand natural scheme of life, where we do our duties while on earth then we die afterwards. "MOWN DOWN IT IS A FEUD. THEIR SONS APPEAR" Ted Hughes shows that he has blatantly accepted death, whereas Emily Bronte displays the trauma and effect of death. It took a period of "fifteen wild decembers" to overcome the death of her friend, until she realised that it was useless pining, seeing that there was no means of reuniting, except through death. With the passing of time, there was change. "While the world's tide is moving me along the wave"

Hughes and Bronte make sufficient use of imagery and symbols in order to place emphasis on the meaning that they wanted to achieve. Hughes uses the "thistles" as a metaphor for human existence when he shows that humans die just as easily in as thistles do when they are "mown down" Emily Bronte uses "sun" and "star" to describe her loved one. This shows us the significance and the effect that her lost loved one had on her, while she was alive. Just as these are symbols of "hope" it is certain that she was the "light" in her life but now all hope may be lost. This makes it understandable that it lasted a long period of time to overcome this death.

Overall, Death is represented in similar ways but through different aspects. However, in order to culminate the poems, Bronte and Hughes display the strength that persons gain as a result of experiencing death, in order to continue living, which will hence continue the cycle of life.