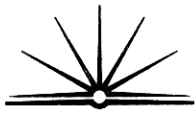


~~E~~ Elective 1 - telling the truth

Everyone has a different truth, and ~~so~~ their truths can be represented through the way in which they communicate them.

Through poetry, we can explore an emotional truth. This is how Ted Hughes chose to communicate to us his ~~text~~ version of truth and his representation of the truth is ~~also~~ represented in a different way to how the same truth has been represented by others.

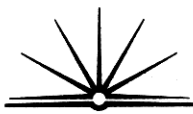
Hughes' poetry discusses issues about his marriage to fellow poet Sylvia Plath. Through his poems, we identify with his truth, and ~~we~~ our understanding of the whole situation is shaped to ultimately have ~~us~~ us as responders identify with his view of the truth. Comparing his poetry to other texts, though, allows us to explore the truth from different perspectives ~~and~~ and the way these other texts represent the truth shape our



own understanding of the truth.

Hughes wrote 'The Birthday Letters' in response to a poem Plath addressed to Hughes shortly before her suicide, in 1963. In this poem 'The Birthday Present', Plath states 'After all, I am only alive by accident.' This statement allows us to see her truth and we can identify this statement with the other texts that refer to her suicide, and her suicide attempt ~~of~~ 10 years previous.

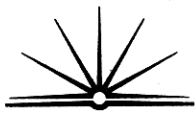
In 'The Fulbright Scholars', Hughes recalls his first view of ~~of~~ Plath, but is more hypothesising about it than a recollection. He can recall when he would have seen her photo but his thoughts at the time and his impression of her are forgotten, so he tells what he believes he would have thought. It was also the first time he ate a peach, so he links these 2 sensory experiences. and uses the peach also as a disguised metaphor.



In 'The Shot', Hughes recognises the negative impact Sylvia's dead father has on their marriage. He ~~comp~~^{uses} a bullet as a metaphor of Sylvia, claiming 'Your real target stood behind me... your daddy'. This poem allows us to see Hughes' view of Plath's father-searching, and ~~his~~ his representation allows us to see from his perspective.

Plath however also allows us to see her perspective and her truth in her poems 'Lady Lazarus' ~~in which she~~ and 'Daddy'. The way she represents her truth in these poems changes our understanding of the situation and of her, as we see her view of it all, and can identify with her truth. In 'Daddy', she refers to her father as 'Herr Doktor', a German evil. In 'Lady Lazarus', she metaphorically kills both her father and Hughes, the two most influential men of her life.

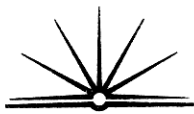
'The Minotaur' discusses their marriage and ~~it~~ shows the violence and ~~any~~ petty issues they argued over.



'Sam' is a response to Plath's 'Whiteness I remember'. Both poems are about Plath's first ~~horse~~ horse ride, but Hughes and Plath have represented the truths differently and broaden our understanding of their situations and the event. 'Sam' becomes an extended metaphor of their marriage, Hughes becomes the horse. 'And flung yourself under my feet to trip me, and tripped me and lay dead. Over in a flash!'

'Your Paris' tells Hughes experience of their honeymoon. He sees Plath as being ~~to~~ too excited and viewing it all through touristic eyes, but after her death and after reading Plath's journal account about her bad experiences in Paris with Richard Sassoon, a previous lover, he recognises how blind he was to her pain.

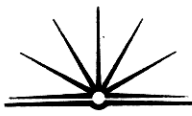
In letters to Plath's mother (from Plath) and in her journal, we have read of her pain and struggles with her relationship with Sassoon. Her private journal



allows us to see a more personal truth as well, her representation of truth in the journal is more for herself, and by public reading it, we establish more of an understanding of where she's coming from in her situations.

'Red', written by Hughes, is a poem ~~the~~ basically using the colour red to establish Plath's infatuation with death. Her journal and entries about her suicide attempt and her poems (eg. Lady Lazarus) ~~also~~ give us a wider view also of what her fascination with death involves, and how it impacts her life.

Through both Hughes poems and Plath's poems, her journal entries and her letters to her mother, Aurelia, we see many different representations of the truth. Our understanding of the events that are talked about in each poem and her diary is more accepting and more clear and creates a non-biased perspective on the events that happened, their situations eg. their



marriage and the troubles involved with that, and we also see different sides of ~~the~~ both Plath's and Hughes' personalities.

In Hughes' poems, we see a fairly ~~is~~ ~~is~~ violent woman with infatuation with death and who hasn't let go of her father, who has been dead since she was 8.

Through reading her journal and her own poems, we can appreciate more of her personality and her view on things. We can also establish how she saw Hughes.

The representation of the truth ~~is~~ shapes our understanding through the formal or informal style of communication, through the purpose of the writer and through their own understanding of the truth. Different representations allow us to broaden our understanding and to gain a personal perspective of our own on the situations and personalities of these people.