THESIS SAMPLES

**High Culture in T.S. Eliot’s “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”: Friend or Foe?**

T.S. Eliot, in his poem “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”, criticizes the hollowness and the pretentious elitism of high culture that seems to be one of the major causes of the alienation and decay of both human relationships and the life in a modern city. Although he appears to be critical of everything that the high culture represents and how it affects people, forcing them to hide their own selves and “prepare a face to meet the faces that you meet” (l. 27), he also alludes to the classical literary tradition with references to Homer, Dante and Shakespeare. Eliot seems to be in favor of the need of a new modern way of expression while at the same time being ironically nostalgic of the classical past and its modern significance.

**Romantic Horrors: The Freudian Uncanny of Love Relationships in Poe and**

**Plath**

Edgar Allan Poe and Sylvia Plath, coming from different centuries, may seem unrelated but through a more detailed analysis they show several common elements. For example, Poe’s and Plath’s poetry themes are saturated with the ideas of Love and Death, both oddly correlated in their works.

The Death and Love correlation found in their poems suggests deeper, inner issues of the writers’ psychology. In Poe’s “Annabel Lee,” Love is related to Death in the sense that even after death love can remain but also the opposite. Death could be related to Love because even though the woman died “many and many a year ago,” the speaker continues to fantasize about her, in a way creating memories that may not truly exist. In Plath’s “Daddy,” Love is the creator of Death as the persona of the poem claims she had to kill not literally her father but whatever feeling towards him is left after her father’s real death. Death is like a relief and escape from the taunting feeling of unreciprocated and unreceived love towards her father. According to Freud’s concept of the Uncanny, a reaction of the unconscious to familiar situations suddenly made unfamiliar, the authors’ presentation of Death and Love themes in their works could be interpreted as a way of repelling and rejecting these problematic relations/memories rather than confronting them. Several examples can be found in the poetic devices, the imagery, and the symbolic language.

In this paper, I will try to explain how the Freudian Uncanny of love relationships is manifested through E. A. Poe’s “Annabel Lee” and S. Plath’s “Daddy”. I will do so by comparing and contrasting the poems’ Death and Love theme presentation through the analysis of poetic language, imagery and symbols.

**Transcendentalism Now: The Relation with American Nature in Gary Snyder, Mary Oliver, and Simon Ortiz**

In this paper I intend to prove that there is a relation between Transcendentalism and the theme of American Nature as it is revealed through the poems of Gary Snyder, Mary Oliver and Simon Ortiz. In my attempt to prove this relation, I will deal with the following poems: “Riprap” by Gary Snyder, “Wild Geese” by Mary Oliver and “My father’s song” by Simon Ortiz.

The reason why I choose to deal with these poems is because they will help me to create parallelisms or even analogies between their context and the theme of Transcendentalism as it appeared and developed during the 1830s and 1840s. The main aspect of the poems which will be helpful for creating these parallelisms and analogies is the relation of nature and human beings. Besides, Transcendentalists believe that people, through the discovery of nature, are capable of discovering virtues already existent in human soul.

The methodology which will be followed in exploring the poems is an analysis of poetic language such as images, symbols and diction. The expected result of this investigation is to intimate the aspect of the poems that “goodness” is inherent in both people and nature.