

Candidate 7 evidence

QUESTION	MARGIN
⑪	
Sylvia Plath, a famous feminist,	
wrote an interior monologue 'The	
Rabbit Catcher' in 1962. The	
persona treads through a rural	
landscape on a searing summer's	
day while exploring her inner	
thoughts and feelings, thus, the	
central concern of the confining	
nature of marriage is unravelled.	
Whilst roaming, the speaker	
stumbles across a line of snares. She	
then begins to draw parallels	
between her husband and the	
rabbit catcher, which as a result	
forces her to believe that these unfortunate	
rabbits are a representation of her	
and her fate. Through Plath's	
effective manipulation of poetic	
techniques such as word choice,	

	imagery, symbolism and personification, the reader grasps a better understanding of the conflict that these restrictive marriages propose and how women in such circumstances cope.	
	In the first stanza, the central concern is highlighted which allows the reader to acknowledge the struggle women face from gaining liberation.	
	The speaker suddenly feels taken aback by the scenery:	
	"It was a place of force"	
	Through Plath's effective use of past tense in "was", it is made explicitly clear that the speaker is reflecting upon a past memory or experience. The location that Plath	

	makes reference to may be the	
	rural landscape that the speaker finds	
	herself in or metaphorically the	
	relationship that she and her	
	husband obtain. Although the	
	persona is in a stunning, open	
	landscape, she still feels physically	
	confined within her husband's	
	oppression. The image "force" conjures	
	up connotations such as power,	
	strength and violence - all traits that	
	can be associated with a cruel man,	
	the rabbit catcher or her husband.	
	Because of the speaker's inability	
	to escape her husband's restrictive	
	presence despite not being with him,	
	this emphasises just how truly	
	this constraint affects her. Thus,	
	allowing the reader to comprehend	

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the difficulty that women face	
<p>Additionally, the theme is further explored when Plath successfully infuses unusual word choice into her description. The speaker glances down and believes:</p>	
<p>"I tasted the malignity of the gorse"</p> <p>As she passes this bush, a sweet coconut smell leaves from it, so overpowering that she believes she can actually taste it. Plath's word choice is unusual when referring to the gorse as "malignant" which belongs to minds, tumours, cancer and poison. Whereas a flower's appearance would lead you to believe that they are attractive, appealing and symbols of love and peace. Just as flowers,</p>	

NUMBER OF QUESTION		TOTAL MARKS FOR THIS MARGIN
	in their short life span, bring joy and grace to those receiving, so too does the beginning of a marriage, toozng with love and compassion, bring the couple happiness and contentment.	
	However, tragically, as time fades, flowers eventually shrivel up and become frail. The same principal can be presumed for women's husbands generally. - Due to the fact that the speaker is reminded of her husband's lingering presence when she glances at a bush and receives an overwhelming scent, this further emphasises the constraint that he possesses over her.	
	Furthermore, the compelling nature of marriage is fortified through	

NUMBER OF QUESTION	WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	personification when the speaker
	experiences a gust:
	"The wind gagging my mouth
	with my own blown hair, tearing
	off my voice"
	The breeze is so overwhelming that
	it has sprawled the speaker's hair
	over her mouth, making it impossible
	for her to explicitly express herself. This
	breeze is personified to have hands
	which indisputably repress the speaker,
	this is representative of how she is
	unable to express her thoughts and how
	trivial she is perceived. The disturbing
	image of 'gagging' has connotations
	of abuse, onslaught, and the speaker
	physically fulfilling her husband's
	sexual desires at her own discomfort.
	Thus, this causes her to believe

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION		DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	that her husband maybe	
	sadomasochistic; someone that craves	
	pleasure through inflicting or receiving	
	pain during, sexual activity. Her	
	inability to freely express herself may	
	stem from the lack of communication	
	between the persona and her husband.	
	She may feel that her efforts would go to	
	waste as her husbands unwillingness	
	to listen overpowers him. The conflict	
	that women endure in such situations is	
	highlighted when the woman speaker	
	struggles to gain emancipation	
	from patriarchal control, thus, further	
	emphasizes stressing the constructive	
	attributes associated with some marriages.	
	More to the point, Plath incorporates	
	word choice to convey the hardship	

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION		DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	that women must deal with. She	
	notices as she glances down that:	
	"The paths narrowed into the	
	hollow"	
	The persona is aware that the walkway	
	is becoming increasingly tight and	
	that space to walk on is becoming	
	more and more limited. Unfortunately,	
	the rabbits that run along here will	
	eventually be seized by the snares.	
	The tightening walkway is a visual	
	representation of the lack of	
	opportunities available to women and	
	how they are unable to pursue	
	dreams and ambitions. Unfortunately,	
	the set route for women in confined	
	marriages is to marry, concieve and	
	to raise children. This physical	
	emblem that is portrayed by Plath	

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION		DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	through effective use of word choice allows the reader to comprehend and sympathise for females who find themselves in such situations.	
	Plath masterfully conveys the oppressive nature of marriage through effective use of symbolism. The speaker glances at the traps and believes:	
	"the snares almost effaced themselves"	
	The persona envisions the whole rabbit population being wiped out as a result of the traps set before her, this leaves her feeling unsettled. A snare is a phys circular arranged wire that are used to brutally execute the rabbits.	
	This is done because they are perceived	

NUMBER OF QUESTION		WRITE THE MARG
	<p>as pests by the farmers. The rabbits are assassinated through starvation or from excruciating pain as a result of the wire severing deeper and deeper into their skin. Thus The snares are somewhat symbolic of the speaker's constraining marriage, just as snares enclose their victims, so too do these marriages suffocate fragile, defenceless women, killing them slowly but eventually. Snares are also symbolic of nooses, just as snares shut on the rabbits, so too does a noose asphyxiate someone until death. Also, the physical arrangement of the snare could also be symbolic of a wedding ring, which, from a feminist's point of view, is the an emblem of patriarchal control. Through</p>	

