

Good morning fellow peers,
Have you ever considered what ~~is~~ conflicting perspectives really means? Conflicting perspectives implies that we are provided with opposing view points on certain events, personalities or situations. Composers will use various forms, structures and techniques to influence the way we see reality, therefore positioning the response.

The texts I am going to discuss with you today to demonstrate how my understanding of conflicting perspectives is shaped by the construction of these texts are Ted Hughes's poems Fullbright Scholars, The Shot and Sam, Sylvia Plath's Daddy and Sullivan Ballou's letter to his wife.

Hughes's poems are part of his anthology "Birthday letters" and this title implies celebration and happiness through letters that are expected to be factual. ~~The~~ This is a collection of poetic letters in verse, where Hughes has used poetic licence to manipulate his portrayal of certain events in his life with Plath. He has used the freedom of form to play with his perspective and manipulate ours.

Tone is an integral technique employed by both Hughes and Plath that helps shape our understanding of conflicting perspectives. Turn to Hughes' poem Fullbright Scholars. You will see in reading the poem, that there is an internal conflict as memory contradicts hindsight. The employment of an uncertain tone emphasizes this conflict. Rhetorical questions such as "where was it? In the strand?" and the repetition of the use of the word "maybe" establishes a tension between actual events and aspects of his memory. Hughes appears to clearly remember. However, negative connotations, such as her "Exaggerated American grin" and her "Vernonia Lake bang" which was a reference to her role in his life as his own personal *femme fatale*. This grin connotations, is a suggestion to her multiple masks, used to hide her demons. The strength of his memory in these negative aspects was an intention along with the use of freedom of form, to position the responder to his perspective as memory outweighs hindsight.

Now, if you would turn to Plath's poem Daddy. This poem employs an accusatory tone, which is aimed at

The instigation of her illness, Otto Plath, her father. ~~As a~~ The opening line "You don't do, you do not do" immediately points the metaphoric finger and the use of repetition empowers her intention. There is evidence of an angry tone in lines such as "Daddy, daddy, you bastard I'm through" as the negative images she creates of him make way for his portrayed and role in her psychosis. "A cleft in your chin instead of your foot" implies he was her demon and her constant need to replace her father is referred to in this poem along with her glorification of him. There is reference to Hughes as his replacement "The vampire who said he was you" indicates that Hughes sapped the life from her, much in the way a vampire does blood.

Please return to Hughes' book and turn to "The Shot", where his perspective contrasts Plath's in the above poem. The opening line "Your worship needed a god", immediately establishes a tone of accusation in reference to her glorification of her father. The constant metaphoric reference to Plath as a "high velocity bullet" that was "wide flected" was

Seamlessly
integrated from
one poem
to another

a technique employed by Hughes' to paint her as a highly charged, learned human weapon and he sets himself up as the victim as he says "I did not even know I had been hit." The tone of accusation, aligned with the repetition of the word "you," converts to a victimised tone with the word "I." There is also a tone of sarcasm as Hughes paints her as melodramatic "How sob-sodder Kleenex" and "Saturday night parties".

Now to Hughes' last poem "Sam". This poem is a metaphor for Plath's life wide, ~~the~~ hardships of their marriage and her eventual death. The sparse punctuation and enjambment together establish the pace at which both their marriage and her life ended. ~~The~~ The metaphorical representation of himself as a "Calm-stallion" paints a calm persona and juxtaposed with her "loosing her shrimps" creates the idea of two conflicting personas. This is also a reference to her mental state, implying she lost her mind. Hughes refers to her different personalities through an allusion to her

changeability." ... over the switch-back road. He expresses his ^{stiffly} stiffness as she felt the need to adore him, through the line "It was grab his neck and adore him or free-fall!"

These poetic devices have helped to shape my personal understanding of conflicting perspectives.

Much in The Way, Hughes uses poetic license to portray his perspective, Sullivan Ballou uses the form of a letter to portray his perspective on war. ^{This is the next text we are going to examine} This can be seen both as a correction to the war between Hughes' and Plath and the form of a letter mimics Hughes' intention in "Birthday Letters" to position the response through the use of personal language. In an emotional letter to his wife, Ballou expresses his love of country and his acceptance of his duty to serve. This is exemplified through high modality language "I am ... perfectly willing ... to pay that debt" as he sees it as his duty to serve. There is an internal conflict in the letter as his love and responsibility to his wife and sons conflicts with his love of country and need to serve. This conflict is portrayed when Ballou writes

use of superlatives

"My love for you Sarah is deathless... yet my love of country comes over me like a strong wind and bears me irresistably with all those chains to the battle field. This metaphor was a strategy employed to reflect the conflict between his feelings, but the strength of his feelings towards his responsibility to serve. Ballou uses strong imagery, metaphors, similes and emotive language to further express the ~~extent~~ extent of the conflict. He has used the freedom of form to portray this conflict, as his personal language effectively positions the reader, evoking emotions within them.

So students, as you can see the construction of these texts have helped shape my understanding of conflicting perspectives. Both Hughes' and Plath's employment of poetic devices such as tone, rhetorical questions, repetition, imagery, ~~metaphoric representation~~ representation and more and Ballou's use of freedom of form, high modalite language, similes, imagery and metaphors, have all contributed to my understanding of conflicting perspectives, positioning me as the responder to one perspective or another.