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The two poems "To Be A Woman" by Daisy Zamora and "Who'd Want to Be a Man?" by Gregory Orr present two different perspectives of what it is to be a certain sex. Zamora explains how it is to be a man and Orr, how it is to be a woman. Although the two poems consist of contrasting subject matter, the similarity between the two poems cannot be overlooked. Certainly, imagery and tone reveal how the two seemingly opposite poems can share deep similarities.

The imagery in these two poems resemble the hate of the poets' of becoming a man or a woman. For example, Zamora uses imagery such as "Having been born a woman/ Means placing your body at the service of others" and "Destroying the draw bridge, tearing down the walls./ Until you have liberated yourself" to explain how painful it is to become a woman and the obstacles that you have to go through in order to establish yourself in society. Orr also resembles hate in his poem by enumerating lists of imageries. He writes "With his heart/ a black sack in/ which a small animal's trapped." and "With his rage/ that would smash the ten thousand things/ without blinking." These imageries serve the readers to understand the burden of becoming a man and what he has to sacrifice for it. As such, imagery shows how both poets share similar opinions of their respective sex.

Moreover, the similarity between the two poems can be found in tone. In both of the poems, the poets' attitude toward the sexes that they are talking about is negative. The tone is not only cynical, but also dejected. For example, although the last stanza of "To Be a Woman" conveys a hopeful message for all women, the overall tone of the poem suggests the inevitable misery that women have to go through in their lives. Phrases like "giving your time to others", "your body is not yours", "rebel, fight and scream" hint the troublesome nature of becoming a woman. In addition, Orr uses words like "trapped", "balled up and hard", "smash", "dry well", implying the onerous life that man has to live. In the end, both poems uses the same tone to pass on their messages to the readers.

Because one poem is about becoming a man and the other is about becoming a woman, readers could have thought that these are two contradicting literature pieces. Yet, examining imagery and tone, it can be seen that the two poets, Zamora and Orr, use the same methods to convey the burden that both men and women have to carry on in their lives.

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Works Cited

-  "Poems Submitted by M.F.." The Hopeless Romantic's Official Website . N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2012. <<http://janepm.tripod.com/poems/mf.htm>>.
- "Who'd want to be a man? - Free Online Library." Free News, Magazines, Newspapers, Journals, Reference Articles and Classic Books - Free Online Library. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2012. <<http://www.thefreelibrary.com/Who'd+want+to+be+a +man %3F-a015051517>>.


FINAL GRADE

6 / 9


GENERAL COMMENTS


Your ideas are right on. Organization is just fine (albeit a bit mechanical). But you don't have the control of language that I'd like to see. Recheck your wording and play with the complexities a bit more.

PAGE 1

 1. What? This is too obvious.

Awkward Awkward:
The expression or construction is cumbersome or difficult to read. Consider rewriting.

 2. Good! Use imagerY (sing. and pl. form). Include line numbers for quotes.

 3. you've got tone as "negative" and "dejected". Is it exactly the same? Are there nuances you can reveal?

 4. not so much BECOMING as BEING

 5. Anything DIFFERENT worth mentioning? Maybe Zamora's final shift in tone?

PAGE 2

 6. Excellent! A WCP. No URL needed.