

## Proofreading Plus Example

To a very large extent, Sylvia Plath used the writing of poetry to declare all ~~her~~the anger and frustration which arose from her difficult relationship with her father. In no place can this be seen ~~more~~better than in her poetic masterpiece *Daddy*, where all her frustration, and the anger that comes with it comes to a nasty head.

**Comment [D1]:** Style: Improves fluency.

**Comment [D2]:** Mechanics: Comma improves clarity.

At the very end of this poem there appears a shocking verse that goes like this:

~~“~~There's a stake in your fat black heart  
~~A~~nd the villagers never liked you.  
~~They~~ are dancing and stamping on you.  
They always knew it was you.  
~~—~~Daddy, daddy, you bastard, I'm through.”

**Formatted:** Indent: Left: 3 cm, Right: 2.92 cm, Don't add space between paragraphs of the same style

**Comment [D3]:** Mechanics: Long quotes should be indented, with quotation marks removed.

In these lines the poet is defaming the memory of her father by claiming that he was unpopular with the entire local community. We only have her word on this, though, and the ~~daddies~~ “daddy’s” voice is conspicuous in its ~~absense~~absence, he ~~cant~~can't defend himself at all. The final line, in which Sylvia tells us she is finished with her poem and by implication with her father, leaves a shocking echo of all the hate and vitriol she so obviously ~~feels~~felt in writing it. But it does leave the impression that she is trying to convince herself, more than her readers, that she has worked through and resolved all the issues with her father.

**Comment [D4]:** Mechanics: Grammar error, and colloquialisms lifted from the text should be placed in quotations.

**Comment [D5]:** Mechanics: Spelling.

**Comment [D6]:** Mechanics: Corrected tense.

Sylvia Plath's sheer feelings of ~~being supressed~~suppression in this poem can be seen from the poem's very first verse which starts

~~“~~You do not ~~do~~, you do not do  
~~A~~ny more, black shoe,  
~~I~~n which I have lived like a foot  
~~f~~or thirty years, poor and white,  
~~b~~arely daring to breathe or ~~A~~choo’.

**Comment [D7]:** Mechanics: Poem's punctuation and spelling MUST match that of referenced publication.

The relationship that Sylvia had with her dad must have been pretty awful if she felt she ~~wasn't~~ even able to sneeze for such a long time! The stark contrast between the poor and white poet (with white signalling innocence) and the black boot of the dad is one of the most vivid things Plath ever wrote. The black boot is also a horrifying image that introduces us, the readers, to the Nazi theme that ~~recurs~~recurs throughout the poem. The Nazi imagery is used by Plath to show the wickedness of her dad, and to show the evil within him and transforms the poem into a powerful psychodrama that casts the dad as a Nazi dictator and Sylvia as a persecuted  ~~Jew~~Jew (she states in the ~~seventh~~ 7<sup>th</sup> verse “I began to talk like a Jew. ~~I~~ think I may well be a Jew”) But I think we have to ~~bare~~bear in mind that the

**Comment [D8]:** Mechanics: Grammar, missing apostrophe.

**Comment [D9]:** Mechanics: Spelling.

**Comment [D10]:** Mechanics: Jew is always capitalised.

**Comment [D11]:** Mechanics: Seventh should be a word, not a number.

**Comment [D12]:** Mechanics: In-line quotations should indicate line-breaks with a \.

relationship between them as it is displayed in the poem is ultimately a **metaphorical** one. In other words, Sylvia's dad wasn't really a Nazi and nor was she really a **J**ew. What the poem ultimately shows is that the power relationship between them was, as the French poststructuralist philosopher Michel Foucault (**1926-1984**) would **say**, one of oppressor/oppressed. In writing her poem Sylvia Plath **is** using the act of writing verse to voice her anger as a sort of cathartic process but also to carve out a more clever way of negotiating a way out of this twisted dualistic relationship with her dad. What **could can** be a more clever way of doing this than immortalising him and their relationship **for-ever** in a poem?

There is no doubt that Sylvia Plath was clearly **in** a **long-**suffering relationship with her father but there might be more than a little poetic license in her portrayal of him. Within the context of her work as a whole though, this poem provides a useful insight into the ways in which writing was a coping mechanism for her.

**Comment [D13]:** Mechanics: Grammar.

**Comment [D14]:** Style: Date of birth-death not necessary in a literature essay.

**Comment [D15]:** Mechanics: Grammar, missing comma.

**Comment [D16]:** Mechanics: Missing word.

**Comment [D17]:** Mechanics: Altered tense.

**Comment [D18]:** Mechanics: Spelling, forever is one word.

**Comment [D19]:** Mechanics: Missing word.

**Comment [D20]:** Mechanics: Long-suffering should be hyphenated.