**Piano by D.H Lawrence**

**Form and Structure**

Rhyming couplets-Simple rhyme as poem explores childhood and reflects childhood**.**

**Unusually long lines-**almost flooded by memories which can’t be contained in shorter lines.

**Enjambment** disguises the rhyme as they flood into one another, also reiterating the idea that the memories are overwhelming him. **The memory is so powerful he cannot control it.**

**Subject:** The nostalgic quality of music and

how hearing it can transport you back.

**Tone:**

‘Softly in the dusk’-Poem is gentle in tone,

melancholic poem.

**Use of language**

**Sibilance “S”-** in first line “**s**oftly in the du**s**k…a woman is **s**inging to me.” This creates an effect of the memory almost slithering back to him, it is slowly coming to him. Could also reflect the sounds made by the piano.

**Alliteration:** “**P**ressing the small **p**oised feet of a mother…” This alliteration emphasises the controlled and elegant way the mother is playing and links these word so the reader can picture this image more vividly. There is an intimacy and comforting image for the reader.

**Imagery-“Vista”:** Wide view- looking down...suggests he is stood at a height which could show that life has been an uphill struggle perhaps.

**Sensory language:** “Boom” onomatopoeic, conveys the sound of the piano vividly to the reader and “tingling strings” with the use of assonance again to allow the reader to imagine that they too are there with him, hearing the same sounds.

**Stanza Two “Insidious mastery of the song”-**Almost personifies the music, like it is a sinister and evil force, there to remind him of a long dead past-he can no longer return to. There is a desperate sadness created by this.

**“Cosy”** warmth and “**winter outside”-**Shows that as a child he felt warm and protected in his home, he felt loved and secure at this time.

**“My heart weeps”-**Metaphor-he is desperately upset, the very core of him grieves and wishes to return.

**Stanza 3**

**Tone changes- “Now it is vain…”**there is an anger at the present singer who is almost dragging him away from pleasant memories of his childhood and back to the present.

**“Great black piano”-**There is a darkness in this line due to adjective “black.”

**“Clamour”** -A word suggesting noise which is loud and harsh-not as soft and delicate as his mother’s “tingling strings.” Sense of dischord between Lawrence and this woman.

**“Clamour**” and **“Glamour”** the rhyme links these words and emphasise their contrast. Present is loud and hard to listen to but past is attractive to think about and he remembers it fondly.

**“My manhood is cast down in the flood of remembrance**” Metaphor to show that he has been swept away by the powerful tide of this memory. This also reiterates the idea that the memory has flooded him. We might also think of ‘floods’ of tears which is then mentioned in the final simile **“I weep like a child for the past.”**

This final simile leaves the poem on a very sad/sombre note for the reader.

**Message:** The power of music to overwhelm and take us back to another time. Poem about relationship, we get the sense of a difficult relationship in present but a secure relationship in the past where he felt secure in

**Point of view-First person and perhaps autobiographical-talking directly to the reader, confiding in us, we are therefore more emotionally connected to the poem?**