**Comparative Essay Plan ‘Loss’: Poem 1: PIANO Poem 2: La Belle Dame sans Merci**

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| Meaning  or  Purpose | *What is the poet trying to say? What is he trying to communicate and why?* | Loss of childhood/ innocence, memory, nostalgia, reminiscing  Unhappy with his life? Longs for halcyon days of childhood? | Loss of love/ abandonment |
| Structure | *Rhyme, rhythm, how is punctuation used and to what effect?* | Present – to past – to present  Suggestion that the speaker is much older and perhaps his mother is no longer around, more vague, more of a distant memory, or feeling. | Present – to past- to present  The Knight is reflecting on his encounter with ‘La Belle Dame’. |
| Language | *Dynamic verbs, adjectives, adverbs, emotive language, pronouns/ direct address, rhetorical devices (repetition, alliteration, onomatopoeia, hyperbole etc.)* | FIND SHORT QUOTES FOR ALL OF THESE AND RELATE THEM TO THE KEY WORD - PARENTS  -Emotive language  -Imagery – metaphors, similes, sibilance, assonance, onomatopoeia, pathetic fallacy, rhyming couplets, enjambment. | FIND SHORT QUOTES FOR ALL OF THESE AND RELATE THEM TO THE KEY WORD - PARENTS  Lexis used focuses on theme of money and budgeting. Suggests her father had to work hard, instilled in her a firm sense of discipline ‘beating’  Volta in poem – mood changes from quite strict parenting style to perhaps as she got older, her relaxed a bit. Lexis is more sensual and free e.g. ‘Yoga’ |
| Imagery | *Metaphor, simile, personification; is extended metaphor used? Are there allusions or references to other texts?* | - Extended metaphor of music  Imagery of music and sensory used – e.gs?  Lots of auditory devices used, as it is the music that encourages the speaker to feel nostalgia. Almost idealistic scene – lots of use of alliteration and rhyme.  The image of the fire features in both – perhaps a sign of the comforting nature of past memories. The fire in piano is in the past. | Extended metaphor of cooking  ‘Seasoned none of my life twice’ – suggests that parenting style changed and was varied. How cookery can be a very scientific process but also quite creative, just like parenting. Her father wanted to do a good job.  The fire in Poem at 39 is in the present – focusing on the hope she has for her future? |
| Tone | *Is there a mood? Do you hear the poet’s voice? Is it angry/ embittered/ amused/ upset or another - how do you know? What’s the emotion/tone – does it change?* | Melancholic, regretful, nostalgia, emotive  Memory of mother is more distant, literally (speaker is older) and mother seems to have music as her priority.  Upset/embarrassed at himself for the strong emotional impact this memory has upon him. Suggests that he is not happy with how his life has turned out.  It’s the piano he remembers more so than his mother. | Emotive, more realistic, or honest. Acknowledges the negative aspects of her father.  Lists the various sides to his personality but also focuses a lot on herself and how she is a ‘doer; lots of dynamic verbs suggests that she too is both practical and creative, like her father. |

**USEFUL VOCABULARY**

**Language:** Tone, imagery, metaphor, simile, allusion, adverb, adjective, verb, alliteration (sibilance/assonance), onomatopoeia

**Form:** Stanzas, freeform, equal/unequal, longer line, caesura, enjambment, rhyming couplet, question marks (interrogative), exclamation marks (exclamative)

**Structure:** Ballad, Sonnet, Villanelle, at the start, towards the middle there’s a shift, volta, the end of the poem, past, present, future, retrospective