

## ***The Happiest Day* by Linda Pastan**

### **What is a poem about?**

The poem tells us about a young lady who is full of internal contradictions. It is spring. May, to be precise. She is considering her parents, her childhood, her future, and her happiness.

### **What idea or theme does the poem seem to emphasize?**

This poem presents us with the inner voice of a person. She tries not to be desperate. All living circumstances persuade her that she is happy but she withdraws in her self-reflection. The poem stresses the common problem connecting to the psychological analysis.

### **If the poem is a question, what is the answer?**

The whole poem is penetrated with an inner question. It is represented by overall understanding whether a person is happy in her life. In order to find out the answer, people observe all their life and some memorized events. They can lead the person either to happy perception or to the lost sense of life “when so many promises are made, it hardly matters if a few are broken”.

### **What kind of poem is it?**

This poem was written in a form of a dramatic monologue. The speaker dwells upon her personal attitude to life, shows us her ability to survive, and describes her life. She analyses all aspects of her own happiness.

### **Does a poem have a pattern?**

The main aim of this poem is to imagine a particular person with her inner discussion and carry everything on the whole generation. The pattern is from inside to outside position. The speaker says, “if someone could only stop the camera and ask me: are you happy?”

Of all the questions, you asked and answered, which answer(s) to which question(s) led you farthest into understanding and explaining the poem’s meaning? Why?

When we are talking about the main poem's idea, we can distinguish the main point. It is the most crucial backbone in the poem.

### ***In the Middle* by Barbara Crooker**

#### **What is the poem about?**

In this poem, the unknown speaker is pondering over the sense of life, the power of love, and the limited time.

#### **Is there any external or internal conflict?**

The inside pattern demonstrates how personal thoughts and disturbances can fulfill the universal hardship. There is a poor contrast between the internal and external, but mainly the internal developed into the external one.

#### **Are there any structural peculiarities?**

The first four lines indicate the interlinear rhyme "of a life that is as complicated as everyone else's; struggling for balance, juggling time. The mantle clock that was my grandfather's has stopped at 9:20; we have not had time".

How do the different parts or events in the poem contribute to the overall big picture?

First of all, all the events in this poem just show the succession of the inner monologue. Secondly, these events personify the usual speaker's life. The main point is in the immortal controversy between life and death.

Of all the questions, you asked and answered, which answer(s) to which question(s) led you farthest into understanding and explaining the poem's meaning? Why?

The answer on the last question represents the fullest understanding. The poem tries to define how much time we have, and whether it is enough for people. "Time is always ahead of us."

The only thing to save time and the rest of life is love. "Each day, we must learn again how to love."

Two compared poems have a lot of common notions and ideas. In some way, they are very optimistic but people can reach this optimism only experiencing the turning point. Both of them convey the authors' intention to show the hidden sense of life perception. One of the most prominent similarities is the way how the internal conflict takes the lead over the external one. The poems were conceived by the simile and rhyme scheme.

The setting is slightly different. In *The Happiest Day* by Linda Pastan, the spring fresh sensation is opposite to the summer dry perception like in *In the Middle* by Barbara Crooker. Internal structure of *In the Middle* is somehow dramatic. *The Happiest Day* is structurally discursive.

For the most part, they both are identical in their presentation and interpretation.

## **Works Cited**

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