

'at castle boterel' by
thomas hardy and
'piano' by d h
lawrence



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In both of the poems, ' At Castle Boterel' by Thomas Hardy and ' Piano' by D H Lawrence, the main idea is the thought of reminiscence for a lost loved one. The two poems show the tragic side of love, especially lost love.

Also the two poets have used nostalgia, which means that you are happy but also sad about your reminiscence of a loved one for example. Hardy and Lawrence both use language styles and patterns to deliver and develop the message of their poems in the two poems I have chose to study in this coursework. They use a range of words to express the feelings of the poem. In At Castle Boterel, Hardy attempts to create an idealised and romantic language.

He does this by using made up words which sound old-fashioned and romantic, ' the drizzle bedrenches the waggonette'. This is one of his attempts to say something using made up words. He also uses ' benighted', which is another attempt to make the poem into an old fashioned love poem. Lawrence in his poem ' Piano' also attempts to create a romantic feel to it by the language he uses. ' The heart of me weeps'; this is a more romantic way of saying how he is upset.

And ' the flood of remembrance', which is also an attempt of a romantic term. Rhyme is also used in both of the poems and this helps the writers to express their feelings. In ' at Castle Boterel' an A, B, A, A, B rhyming form is shown. I think that this is used to show the stages of each stanza that he wrote. Piano also has a rhyming style to it, but this time an A, A, B, B form is shown. I think that this is done to symbolise how a piano is a very tuneful instrument.

The two poets have also used alliteration, onomatopoeia, similes, metaphors and repetition in their poems. They have done this to further deliver and develop the message of their poems. In the poems, Hardy and Lawrence use a lot of these methods because it shows an extended use of language types to further develop the thought of romance and fading memories in his poem. Hardy's poem, At Castle Boterel talks about the poet's reminiscences of his walk with his girlfriend who is now dead.

He talks about how they climbed the road not minding what they talked about because it was so perfect, and how the hill remembers his walk, 'was there ever a time of such quality in that hill's story? This is saying how in all of the people walking up that hill, was there ever such a romantic and perfect story. The language used here is a good way to show the message of the poem. Hardy also describes how he can still remember this incident although it is very distant, 'one phantom figure remains on the slope'. The same as the hill telling a story, in 'Piano', the author shows his reminiscence of how his mother's music told a story.

There is also a slight sense of nostalgia in Lawrence's poem, as he remembers the sadness and happiness of his childhood. He remembers sitting by his mother's piano and he describes what sounds he hears, 'the boom of the tingling strings'. This is an oxymoron and this is a clever language method to use because it shows two opposites next to each other, just like nostalgia does. Also Lawrence uses many s sounds in his poem to make the poem sound very soothing like a mother does to her child. The two poets also use structure in their poems to deliver and develop the message they are trying to show.

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Both poets have got 4 lines to a stanza, I think that this is done to show how the poems are organised like a story. Strong memories with no breaks in them to show how the memories are clear ones and the poets reminiscence of their loved ones. In 'Piano', the structure of the poem could enhance the feeling of childhood and his life up to now; it does this by starting off with him starting to remember his memories, then the second stanza he starts to remember more of his mother and then in the last stanza he remembers himself as a child, 'I weep like a child for the past'. The set out of the three stanzas is like the poets lifetime going in reverse as he remembers.

In Hardy's poem 'At Castle Boterel', it is also set out with a set 5 lines to a stanza in every stanza. I think that Hardy has done this because his memory of every last detail of the walk and his girlfriend are as clear as they were the day he went on the walk.