

The waste land by t.s eliot



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

Two great eras of poetry and prose have been witnessed by us where literature was an art and considered a profession of the literate. The two eras in comparison are the poetry of Victorian era or Romantic Poetry and poetry of the modern poets. The poems chosen under review are The Waste Land by T. S Eliot and Memorabilia by Robert Browning.

The discussion ensues with a brief description of the two poems, followed by a comparison of the two poems under the different eras, quoting examples from the poems to signify the differences, especially in the usage of nature in the two poems during these eras. The Waste Land by T. S Eliot: The Waste Land is considered one of the greatest works of the modern poetry and literature. It was written during the time of the First World War and this has changed the face of European culture.

His usage of nature is signified by the use of Sybil, a woman who has prophetic powers, but who wills to die even though she does not age. His poem is a depiction of the two anthropological works, Ritual of Romance by Jessie Weston and The Golden Bough by Sir James Frazer. Eliot portrays nature through people in his poem, one of them being Fisher King, who is injured and is impotent and is termed a waste land. Eliot takes the example of King Fisher and utilizes it to portray the various aspects of culture and the country, depicting it as a waste land.

The above is a passage from the first part of The Waste Land, where Eliot describes the conditions of the modern society and how it has changed for the worst. He describes the conditions through tarot cards and the condition of the clairvoyant who looks into the future to see only bleakness.

Memorabilia by Robert Browning This poem is from the Romantic era and is named Memorabilia to indicate things in the physical and tangible meaning.

However, the poetry is metaphorical and details a person named Shelly who is now dead but the second degree reference to it is metaphorical and is corroborated to the eagle included in the poem as well. He refers to the eagle and explains that it has flown away but has left a feather, and then correlates this idea to that of Shelley who has gone but thoughts remain through the encounters that had taken place. This is a direct approach to nature by Browning which is not usually the case with authors and poets of the Romantic era who tend to picture things in a more metaphorical and euphonic manner.

The poetry is significant of a loss and the tragedy of someone going away forever, and is an epiphany of the loss that has taken place after the eagle has flown away and when Shelley has left. The poem portrays a more philosophical and intricate manner of poetry as Browning indicates who he has lost faith in the life that he lives and his analyzing abilities. However, his poetry is also a refreshing and more romantically poetic way of depicting human loss than poetry of the modern era which is more direct, blunt and is romantically disinclined.