

# Comparing 'the night of the scorpion' and 'digging' essay



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The poem 'The Night Of The Scorpion' deals with many points of family relationship as does the other poem 'Digging'. In 'The Night Of The Scorpion' the relationship is between the mother and the children. In 'Digging' the relationship is between the son and father.

\* Straight away at the start of the poem 'The Night Of The Scorpion' there is a feeling of tenderness by the mother and willingness of sacrifice by her.

(line 47, "thank god the scorpion picked on me and spared my children").\*

There is also a community of peasants in the poem which shows that they are in a close relationship. This feeling of relationship is expressed well in line 8 ("the peasants came like a swarm of flies").\* The community also shows signs of belief of god or a special god.

There is also superstition between the peasants as shown in line 16 ("with every movement that the scorpion made...moved in mother's blood").

\* At the start of the poem 'Digging' the first two opening lines sound as though they are or could be the end of the poem. This gives extra depth to the poem making the reader want to imagine and try to think what is going to happen next. It also makes the reader want to read on. (line 1-2, "Between my finger and my thumb The squat pen rests: snug as a gun")\* The poem is narrated by the son although there is no sign of this until the last line of the second paragraph.

I think the writer was trying to let the reader have a wide imagination. (line 5, My father, digging. I look down)\* There are three stages to the poem:

1 memories of the father (past) 2 memories of grand father (further past) 3 the present. This is a leap in the tense from past to present.\* The ending of the

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poem is similar to the first with some minor alterations.(line 29- 31, " Between my finger and my thumb The squat pen rests.

I'll dig with it.")\* The title, once one has read this poem, becomes clear that it is not meant as digging with a shovel but digging into the past.\* The language used in ' The Night Of The Scorpion' is very simple yet very detailed. Something that struck me as a very good metaphor was using the people as flies and how they buzzed out.

(line8, " the peasants...a hundred times")\* The writer goes into detail and depth about the peasants culture or religion by using words such as ' evil one' and ' blessing'.\* The poem as a whole is quite detailed specially when the writer describes the father as " sceptic, rationalist" in line 36.

\* The language in the poem ' Digging' was very detailed and there was a very wide use of vocabulary.\* The writer uses idiomatic phrases to enhance the poem. (line 2 ' snug as a gun') this phrase shows how the squat pen rests very comfortable like a gun in a hand is ergonomic.\* There is some boasting added in to emphasise the feeling of the young boy and the way he feels towards his father and grandfather.(line 17 -18, " My grandfather cut more turf in a day Than any other man on Toner's bog.

\* Repetition in the poem is used to emphasise the point. ( line 23, " going down and down")\* Quick sentence structure gives impressions of character moving fast. Reflection: I found this work quite hard as in that I thought a bit more background info and a basic outline of how to set it out would have come in handy. Read