

A the reader feel what  
exactly was going



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

A comparison of planned child by Sandra Olds and a Rainy country by Linda Pastan. After reading the two poems by the renowned poets, one gets to understand the similarities in their works.

They both are feminists with well-written and direct free verse style poems set to capture a reader's attention; however, a deeper understanding is required so as to unravel the deeper meaning they are trying to communicate in their pieces. Therefore, my goal in this paper is to compare the pieces and show the similarities of Old's and Pastan's literary styles of writing.

**Imagery** The events of the poems are presented in images that quickly shift places from sad and depressed scenes to beautiful and soothing ones then it changes course back to the original. This puts imagery as one of the main styles used by both of the poets (Pastan, 45-58).

Old uses imagery of the sun, Moon, Stars, Orion cartwheeling easily across the world to depict the joy she had for being a planned child. She was so happy that her mother would not have thought of staying in the world without her thus she had to plan for the birth. In Pastan's poem in the first stanza, she uses imagery of the headlines and feature stories leaking blood all over the breakfast table and the wounding of the world mingling with the smells of bacon and bread is used to explain how the country was deep in tragedy and rotten (Baker, 288-301). This is used to create a picture in the reader's mind of how the rot was deeply rooted in the society.

**Atmosphere /Mood** The mood or atmosphere is the feeling that is created in a poem. Old in Planned Child sets a somber mood at the beginning by criticizing her mother's act of planning the birth. She attests to the fact that

her birth was well organized and calculated (Aube, 140-156). She wanted according to his own words "to be conceived in heat, by mistake, in haste, in love, in sex and not on cardboard." She, therefore, allows the reader to feel her emotions on the subject. Pastan also maintains a very somber mood in the poem the raining country. She uses it to make the reader feel what exactly was going on in the country (Baker, 288-301).

In the first stanza she says that the headlines and feature stories were leaking blood all over the breakfast table and the wounding of the world mingling with the smells of bacon and bread, this sets a sad scene for the reader, preparing them for an unpleasant situation in the poem. Metaphors Pastan's work is majorly a metaphorical piece. He uses metaphors to describe almost the whole piece. Metaphors are a literary style used to compare objects which are rather dissimilar. She uses the Trojan women which is a tragedy written by the ancient Greek playwright Euripides (Baker, 288-301). It centers mainly on the horror of war and its aftermath.

Thus, this serves as the perfect fit to describe the mood in the poem, which is tragic, and beyond redemption. She continues to compare herself to the queen of a rainy country who is old and powerless in the last stanza. This is metaphorical to mean that she can do nothing about the situation in the country because she cannot control the rain, which in this case the rain represents the tragic situation in the country. Thus, the dawn of a new day and she continues with her daily routine oblivious of what is happening in the country. Old metaphorically compares the wine being poured into the wine glass to the blood with grainy tiny clots that helps relieve the mother of the pain of delivery by smoothing the way. The wine thus helps create and

relieves Old's mind and allows her to view her birth as a planned baby to be a right decision.

Theme: Feminism Pastan's reference to herself as the queen of a rainy country who is old and powerless is an embrace of feminism. With the reference, she puts it upon herself to be responsible for the tragic situation of the country (Baker, 288-301). It is only tragic because she cannot do anything to remedy the situation in the country. She brings a different feminine angle to issues such as aging, loss, and death. Old in the Planned Child depicts the woman as a character to whom the decision to bring to life solely depends on. This is brought out with the imagery used when the mother is conceiving the child.

' she was bearing down and then breathing in the mask and the bearing down and pushing me out to the world that was not enough for her without me in it'. This establishes the role of a woman in the society and makes it even better because she endures all the pain and trouble of bringing a child to the world (Pastan, 45-58). Thus putting the woman on the same level as the man whose role in the society is rather overrated compared to the women.

Unexpectedness of life In Old's planned child, she brings out the theme of the unexpectedness of life by criticizing the act of her mother planning her birth; it is expected that in a normal life situation one is expected to be grateful that they were not born by accident. However, Old goes ahead to suggest that she ought to have been born in an unexpected and unplanned time.

Pastan in the Raining country compares herself to the queen of the raining country who is old and powerless. She goes on to continue with her life as if

nothing is happening (Baker, 288-301). In a normal setting, she was supposed to try and remedy the situation especially when she has made such crucial observations. "I have thumbed through the pages of my life" is a phrase she uses to show that she had seen what would happen in the future. If she knew what to expect she then ought to have at least done something to help remedy the situation. Conclusion From analyzing the two poems, we find that they use similar themes and literal styles.

This, therefore, assists the two to address their issues in a more clear and effective way. The similarity makes their work stand out as one of the best poets who has gone ahead to address various issues that most poets fail to address, a good example being feminism and politics in the society.