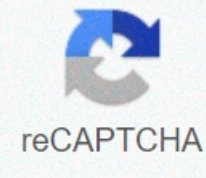




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The applicant sylvia plath analysis shmooop

Excerpts from this document... Job application analysis initially, a reader might think that the title 'The applicant' refers to an applicant. Perhaps one will visualize a job interview scenario in which the applicant sits across the desk from someone who expects them to sell themselves as a good candidate for the role. On closer inspection, it seems that the role requested is that of a spouse and that the applicant is not given any opportunity to speak for himself; it is more as if this role is sold to her or told to her, as if she had little choice in the case—or perhaps the speaker of the poem is intended as a version of the applicant herself, in a sly attempt to talk herself into acquiescing to a role that does not suit her. ... read more. that she was not the type who could ever successfully fulfill the role of woman, because she could not help to assume the role as docile and vapid and otherwise weak, and she could not help, but to disdain and despise such qualities, as well as the men who covet them. If one reads 'The Applicant' and sees the applicant as a man applying for a woman, mark how the descriptive language in the first two verses of the poem presents this man as weak, sniveling, weeping, needy and unworthy of respect. Of course, Plath also harshly mocked the role of woman or at least the generic clichés and conventional expectations associated with a docile helpmate, almost like some kind of walking, talking device. ... read more. Note that by the last line of the poem, the repeated question, 'Do you want to get married, get married, get married', although still seemingly formulated as a question, no longer a question mark at the end. It now ends with a period, essentially turning it into a declarative statement or a statement that is just pretending to be a question. In the course of the poem, the height to the applicant has shifted from soft sell to hard sell, underlining the finality of the unpleasant perspective of the poem that whether or not the applicant personally likes the services (generic helpmate properties), the product (woman), or the contract (marriage) is presented, leaving this set of roles or rebelling against the contract is not an option. ... read more. The above preview is unformatted text This student written piece of work is one of many that can be found in our AS and A level Sylvia Plath section. Sylvia Plath was born in 1932 in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. She showed the art of a poet an artist from a young age. She published her first poem as an eight-year-old. Her father died when she was about eight years old, which led her to have ambivalent feelings for religion, and that one of the causes of her depression would be. Because of these traumas, her poetry remained primarily as confessional poetry. Her notable works include The Jug and Ariel. She was the recipient of Prize for Poetry, although it was posthumous. Sylvia Plath, poet, writer and short story writer, committed suicide in 1963. About the applicant: The applicant is a poem in Ariel, one of plath's most remarkable works. It was published in 1965, two years after her death. This poem is humorous and dark at the same time with tones of satire and feminism. Setting of the applicant: The poem is set in a kind of office. This is seen both by the title of the poem that implies that an application is submitted somewhere, and by the starting lines of the poem, which is in the form of an interview, which usually takes place in an office. Poetic Devices in The Applicant: Stanza: The poem is written in 8 verses of 5 lines each. Rhyme: There is no rhyme arrangement as such, but there are a lot of internal rhymes. Stanza 5 comes closest to having a rhyme arrangement. Repetition: There is a lot of repetition in the poem. 'Marry it' only is repeated for more than 4 times. Then 'talc' is repeated in the last time of the 7th stanza. Images: There is some pretty vivid images in the poem. From stanza 1, there is images and it reaches a high in the description of the woman the interviewer calls out from the closet. Synecdoche: When the interviewer says, 'here's a hand' in stanza 2, he refers to a woman. Using a part to refer to the whole; That's synecdoche. Summary of the applicant: The poem begins with an interviewer asking an applicant if he/she has something missing. It is later established that the applicant is a 'he'. The applicant has everything but one hand to hold his hand, that is, he has no wife. The applicant is pretty desperate to acquire a woman. This is seen by his crying when asked what was missing. The interviewer seeing this gives the applicant a hand, a hand that brings him tea, soothes him, and generally do as he tells. The hand will close his eyes at the end of a tiring day and solve him with grief. Then the interviewer asks if the applicant is ready for a wedding. Marriage entails a permanent responsibility that cannot be destroyed and must be carried to the grave. Then he says that the applicant's head is a little empty and to fill it, he calls out a woman's closet. He dehumanizes the woman and calls her 'it' by saying how she has all the qualities of a good woman. She can complete it. And the applicant has no choice but to accept her. So you want to get married 'it' the interviewer says. Analysis of the applicant: The poem begins with a person asking the applicant the kind of person he/she is. At this time, it is unclear what the gender of the applicant is. The asks whether the applicant has a glass eye, false teeth, a stool, a brace, a hook, rubber breasts or rubber cross. All these things are things that a person has when he something's missing. The interviewer, in short, asks the applicant if he/she has something missing. The applicant replies in the negative. If he doesn't miss anything, how can we give you something, the interviewer asks. The applicant starts crying. The interviewer then asks the applicant to open his/her hand; and seeing that it was empty, the interviewer gives the applicant a hand. This is a synecdoche. The hand refers here to a man/woman suitable to the candidate. If we look at stereotypes, when the applicant starts crying, we can assume that the applicant was a 'she'. But this stereotype is blown away in the next stanza when the interviewer tells the applicant the hand can bring him (yes, him) tea, roll his headache; all the 'duties' of a woman. So the applicant in question in this stanza becomes a 'he'. The interviewer tells that that 'hand' will do what you tell it. It (the hand, the woman) will close his eyes at the end of the day and resolve his grief. The interviewer says the applicant starts naked. It is not meant literally, but it implies that from then on he was free of responsibilities, responsibilities of marriage. Then the interviewer offers him a suit. A suit is a symbol of responsibility; whether it's at work or in a marriage. Wearing it means that one must carry the tasks that with it. The interviewer, the speaker of the poem asks the applicant if he was willing to marry it. Here the meaning of it changes from the woman to the costume; which means that the speaker asks the applicant if he was willing to take any responsibility. He describes the suit as 'black and stiff, but not a bad fit'. Here 'black and stiff' can be said to be used indirectly which refers to marriage. The interviewer says that as soon as married life gets stiff. Then he says the suit is waterproof, unbreakable, fire-resistant and bomb-proof. He means to say that whatever may come, once he wears on the suit he is accepting responsibility permanently. He must take this responsibility to his grave (they will bury you in it). Then the speaker speaks about the applicant's head, which he says is empty. But don't worry, he says, I have a solution for that, too. She calls a woman (sweetheart) from a closet. 'Closet' here refers to the situation of the woman in the years at the time. The speaker asks the applicant 'what do you think of that'. Here she is called that. The speaker dehumanizes a woman. This goes on to show the treatment of women at the time the poem was written. The speaker says that she (the woman) is naked to begin with. The dehumanization continues in the next stanza as the speaker says the woman will silver in 25 and gold in 50 The years indicate the anniversary of the marriage. A living doll, the speaker calls the woman. And he keeps referring to her. Refer. 'it' has a list of all the qualities 'it' has, implying that she would make a 'good' woman. The speaker ends the poem by saying that 'it' (the woman) works fine. If the applicant has a hole, she'll calm it down. If he has an eye, she will become the statue. She is the last resort of the applicant (we can tell the applicant is pretty desperate to find a woman, going by how he cries in the beginning). So, the speaker asks if the applicant is willing to marry 'it'. The latter is not a question, but a compulsion. The poem is a monologue. The interview, which is the speaker of the poem discussions and the candidate listens. This poem is a satire on the situation of women at the time. Central idea of the applicant: The central idea of the poem is to showcase the plight of women in the 1960s, the time when this poem was written. Tone of the applicant: The tone of the poem is satirical and humorous, but in a dark way. Beneath the light façade lies a deep and dark meaning. Conclusion Sylvia Plath manages to invoke with this poem thought and introspection; a powerful reflection of the appalling plight of women in the 1960s. Contribution: Uttej Reddy This is an analysis by The Applicant. This exercise helped me find a connection between my ideas from Paper 2 and new ideas that came from close readings of Ariel poems. Isabel Zehner Professor Madsen Hardy WR150 April 12, 2011 In The Applicant, Plath presents the reader with an image of woman who emphasizes their subordination to men in marriage. However, what she criticizes she attributes to society. The poem opens: First, you are our kind of person, (Rule 1). The use of our indicates that the speaker is not a person, and the lines that follow suggest that the speaker is, in fact, society in general. The first case of wedding images takes place in the second stanza when the speaker offers the audience-a man-a hand (10) to fill his. This other hand, belonging to a woman, a bride, will do as you tell it (13), and, as the speaker says, willingly so. This line, and the next stanza, seems to mock the expectations of women in marriage. The speaker says that the hand, which is the future wife of the applicant, is guaranteed / thumb close your eyes at the end / and apart from grief (15 - 17), which represents the expectation that a woman will attend her husband until his death. This last stanza, when the speaker says: You have a hole / it is a compress / you have an eye, it is an image (37 - 38), emphasizes the idea that the purpose of a woman is to serve her husband. However, these expectations are not the expectations that the applicant, the groom, seems to Of. While the applicant is sold a bride, he is also introduced to different ideas about the role the bride will play. Plath calls attention to the fact that men products of our culture. This idea is explored in depth in The Bell Jar. The character of Buddy is an example of being told what to expect from a woman. Buddy has many ideas about what a woman should be, most essentially, that a woman is the place where the arrow shoots off of (Page 72) the arrow becomes the man. Buddy's ideas reflect those plath suggests were created by society in The Applicant. That women are meant to be companions to men, that they are meant to serve them, are expectations that Buddy, and the speaker in The Applicant share. At the end of The Bell Jar, when Buddy and Esther see each other for the last time, Buddy says: I wonder who you're going to marry now, Esther (241). From Buddy's perspective, Esther is no longer marketable the way the bride in The Applicant is. is.