

## **Assignment 2**

By: Tejinder Rai

### **A Mother's Cry**

By: Shirley J. Stankiewicz

Colours of dark grey and black fill the world in which I live  
No other feeling could possibly be worse than this  
Where once was a room filled with laughter and cheer  
Now stands loneliness, emptiness, and despair.

Memories of you seem to creep around the corners of my mind  
Endless haunting images of your face that won't decline  
An overwhelming of emotion that my body can't contain  
Fills my soul with unbearable grief, sorrow, and pain

Oh, how I long to hold you in my arms just once more  
And tell you that things will be again, as they were before  
But, as reality sinks in, I know that will never be  
For the choices that I've made in my life have sealed our destiny

No one could ever fathom how wretchedly my heart aches  
And how I greatly regret that you've had to pay for my mistakes  
If I could go back in time, and change only one wrong that I've done  
I'd go back to the hour, to the second, on the day I lost you.

My Son.

### **Teaching Objective:**

This poem could be used as a tool to help students understand the many emotions and stages, one may experience when losing a loved one. Strategies of coping and dealing with these emotions should be taught to older students with the help of a councillor. This poem can also be used as a tool to teach how drugs alcohol and violence activity can affect family or a mother in this case.

## **Background Information:**

The author, Shirley J. Stankiewics, has written several poems about addiction and her son.

## **Introduction:**

There are many ways to introduce this poem to a students.

- Teachers can led students through a visualization activity.
- Have a group discussion about losing a loved one.
- Playing and discussing the song : “ *A Mother’s Cry*” by Young L3x

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mosvSL1gH7E>

- Sharing the poems :

- **Good-Bye by Shirley J. Stankiewicz** and

**Happy Thought by Robert Louis Stevenson** (*attached*) to further discuss emotions and addiction.

## **Analysis**

When analyzing the poem, it had a very depressing and regretful tone. I noticed it was written in a first-person point of view, in this case a mother who had just lost her beloved son. She is feeling a range of emotions that are unknown to her, she was used to living a life of “laughter and cheer” however this tragic event has brought endless nights

of “loneliness, emptiness and despair” that she is unable to fully face on due to the amount of unbearable pain she is experiencing .

In the beginning of the poem the mother doesn't directly indicate who the poem is intended for. Only at the very end of the poem does the reader realize that the poem is written for her child - a son. She invites the reader to feel her pain, remorse and despair by her selective use of word choices and phrases such as “An overwhelming of emotion that my body can't contain, fills my soul with unbearable grief, sorrow, and pain”.

Throughout the poem, imagery is used to further invest the audience's emotions and thoughts as they read line by line. She describes being in a world that is “dark grey and black” and is no longer full of colour like it used to be. She goes to add that the “memories of [her son] creep around the corners of her mind” and the “endless haunting images of your face won't decline”. The use of descriptive language vividly paints an image for the reader. She is still surrounded by these thoughts and memories, however the reader realizes that these “haunted memories” are all she has to keep his memory alive in her mind. The word haunted is used to indicate that the loss is very recent and she has not come to terms with her son's loss.

In the third and fourth stanza, she begins to accept the harsh reality and realizes that this in fact is her destiny. She blames herself for the mistakes she may have made and wishes to have just one last chance with her son. This is a raw emotion many people feel when they lose a loved one. The feeling of regret is very noticeable in this stanza, she blames herself for not doing enough to be able to protect him. These two stanzas make

the reader think of a relationship or a loss they may have experienced. When losing my uncle to depression, these are the thoughts that I still live with today.

Overall the amount of hurt and pain due to her heart-wrenching tone, visualization and word choices in the poem allow the reader to reflect on the poem and their life.

### **Good-Bye**

Shirley J. Stankiewicz

(Ode to Alcohol)

The queasy feeling in my stomach  
The pounding in my head  
The only thoughts in my mind  
Were wishing I was dead

My forehead covered in cold sweats  
Body shakes beyond control  
The endless aching my bones  
As you consumed my very soul

The minutes turned into hours  
The hours turned into days  
suddenly, every moment that I ever lived  
Was just a smoke filled haze

As I watched my body waste away  
And my life slowly coming to an end  
I realized. That I was wrong

You're the devil & not my friend

So, I'm taking back what's left of my life  
Not one more second will you dominate  
I'll bet the strength that lives in me  
You didn't anticipate

Cast you spell on someone else  
Find another unsuspecting prey  
I came to live, NOT to die  
And my life begins TODAY...

**Happy Thought**

**By Robert Louis Stevenson**

The world is so full of a number of things,  
I'm sure we should all be as happy as kings.