




## QUESTION1: POETRY

“To the still born” by Simonne Stellenboom is poem about the terribly sad and tragic birth of a still born baby, however the speaker uses various linguistic devises and styles to turn this into a rather pleasant, still very sad, emotional reading. We will discuss and analyze the different effects of language that was used very cleverly to turn this dreadful event into something beautiful 

The syntax of this poem is very similar to a standard poem, rhyming words, short sentences, descriptive words and a flowing style. Even though the grammatical structure of the poem is not complex, you have to read some of the stanzas more than once to take it all in for example “It’s the hope, love and time You gave us, which we will cherish and save It’s the lost hereafters and tomorrows That makes us cave And we almost give in to these sorrows”. (Stellenboom, 2017) The word order of these stanzas are tactically placed so that each sentence flows into the next one, creating a feel of calm emotion 


The poet makes use of various tropes and schemes throughout the poem to accentuate and portray the theme of loss. The poet does not compare the baby to flower but rather state that the baby is a flower, a flower that never got the chance to show the world its beauty, a flower that never got a chance to blossom and reach its full potential.


“What a beautiful flower you are  
Your petals big and bold  
Proudly pastel and pink  
And even though we never saw you blossom and unfold  
Oh what a beautiful flower you are!”  
(Stellenboom, 2017)

The image of the flower is reiterated throughout the poem by referring to images such as “a bud” and “from a tall and elegant stem”. The speaker also starts and finishes the poem with the sentence “What a beautiful flower you are” to emphasize the image of just how beautiful they had though the baby to be. Take note that the speaker uses “are” and not “were”, throughout the poem the speaker talks about her baby in the present tense “That’s what you are wearing” this signifies that the speaker does not allow herself to think of the baby as dead but rather that she had just moved to a different space. Even though the theme of the poem is loss, the mother portrays it as beautiful journey “As you embark to your heavenly gra 


Even through the speaker softens this tragic event with beautiful imagery she doesn’t fail to portray the pain and loss that she had felt. “It’s the lost hereafters and tomorrows, That make us cave, And we almost give in to these sorrows” The speaker here talks about the time that they will never have with this baby, the unbearable pain they are experiencing and how they deal with this pain.

The atmosphere of this poem does not immediately necessarily sad but rather calm and emotional. The speakers uses a calm tone and her sentences flow into each other to create this image of a beautiful flower that hangs from an elegant and long stem that never had the chance to show the world its beauty. The image created by the metaphor of the flower evokes emotion throughout the poem and also exclaims the fact that the mother (the poet) does not necessarily see the baby as dead. The speaker uses a whole paragraph to explain what the baby is wearing, rather than what the baby was or

w<sup>4</sup>ld be wearing, this further emphasizes the fact that the parents do not see the baby as dead and gone. 

Throughout the poem the speaker uses alliteration to add to the rhythm and flow of the poem “Proudly pastel and pink” the repetition of the p sound is to add to the softness and fairness of this image of a flower, the p sound is pronounced softly and subtly on the lips. The speaker also uses alliteration of the b sound in “Forming a bud so brazen and brave” to contrast to the p sound create harder sound, a brave sound, a strong sound to emphasize the strong emotion. 

To add to the emotional trend of the poem the speaker makes frequent use of a comma at the beginning of the sentence to add to the thought and group the two sentences. “You gave us, which we will cherish and save” and “And inside, as you grew and gave and grace”. The use of this comma is also to make the reader pause for a moment, just as the speaker would have if she was telling the story, this pause also adds to the emotion of the text.

Simonne captured the essence and beauty of her lost baby so perfectly in this poem, she uses imagery to create a picture in the reader’s mind and she uses language to explore the reader’s mind. 

#### Bibliography:

Stellenboom, S. (2017). *To The Still Born* by Simonne Stellenboom. [online] Poetry Potion. Available at: <http://www.poetrypotion.com/to-the-still-born-by-simonne-stellenboom/> [Accessed 5 Apr. 2017].

7



72

# RESULTS

Final Comments = 72

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Total = 72 / 100 (72%)

# COMMENTS

1	Good! Your introduction is sound and informative!
2	A fair observation.
3	Very good! Insightful and well-expressed.
4	Good again!
5	Very good! Insightful and Very detailed.
6	Your conclusion is fair, but a little too vague. Try to focus more on tying up your argument.
7	Thank you for submitting this assignment. Your essay is good. It is fairly well structured, goes into a fair amount of technical detail and is well-substantiated with quotes from the text. Congratulations! Study hard and good luck for the examinations! Marked by: Russell Goldman
8	Total /100: