

Sylvia Plath: Morning Song

Comment [CK1]: Significance of title: a "song" may have connotations

Organising Principle #1: **The power of voices**

Organising Principle #2: **Duties of a mother**

Organising Principle #3: **Emotional process of a mother after childbirth**

Love set you going like a fat gold watch.

The midwife slapped your footsoles, and your **bald cry**
Took its place among the elements.

Comment [CK2]: A loving mood is created in the introduction with the word "love". Since this poem is about her child, the word she associates him with is "love".

Our **voices** echo, magnifying your **arrival**. New **statue**.
In a drafty museum, your nakedness
Shadows our safety. We **stand round blankly** as walls.

Comment [CK3]: Simile: refers to a "fat gold watch", where gold symbolizes as something that is incredibly valuable, while fat may refer to the size of the newborn baby. This image is also associated with the concept of time, where Plath may express that time passes too fast as her new child was born.

I'm no more your mother

Than the cloud that distills a mirror to reflect its own slow
Effacement at the wind's hand.

Comment [CK4]: Auditory imagery, where the child was first born and cries "baldly". The word bald emphasizes that the child is new to the world and inexperienced.

All night your **moth-breath**
Flickers among the **flat pink roses**. **I wake to listen:**
A **far sea** **moves** in my ear.

Comment [CK5]: "Arrival" of the child emphasizes that grandness and a majestic tone is conveyed. This reveals that Plath may be awaiting for this child to come to life for a long time.

One cry, and I **stumble** from bed, cow-heavy and floral
In my **Victorian nightgown**.
Your mouth opens clean as a **cat's**. The window square

Comment [CK6]: A statue is something to look and examine, and Plath incorporates this as an object to compare to her child. The statue in the museum is like her child in the hospital, where the child is new and

Whitens and swallows its **dull** stars. And now you try
Your **handful of notes**;
The **clear** vowels **rise like balloons**.

Comment [CK7]: Author's intent: Plath compares her role as a mother to the distillation of a mirror. This shows how Plath feels about her baby, that she was merely a pathway for her baby to come to this earth. The words "no more" in the previous line emphasizes the worthlessness Plath feels as the creator of her own child.

Comment [CK8]: The word "Effacement" is enhanced through enjambment, and the action of effacing reflects Plath's emotions regarding her emotional bond with her child.

Comment [CK9]: The description of the roses are rather mild, compared to the usual sharp pink roses. This associates with the mild and relaxed nature while the baby is sound asleep.

Comment [CK10]: A sense of relaxation and serenity is created.

Comment [CK11]: A traditional female clothing, reflecting traditional values or perception of female roles. This refers to the duties that Plath believes must be carried out by a mother.

Comment [CK12]: The sunlight outshines the night sky. Plath personifies the sunlight to emphasise on the importance it imposes while the child is awake.