

Compare how poets **present attitudes towards memories** in 'Letters from Yorkshire' and one other poem from Love and Relationships'?

Introduction that puts both poems that summarises the memories that are presented

'Letters from Yorkshire' by Dooley, is an autobiographical poem where the speaker has her memories of her place of origin aroused when she receives mail from an old friend/family member. **Similarly,** 'Eden Rock' is also an autobiographical poem where the speaker remembers a significant place from his childhood. **However,** this memory conjures up a far more melancholic feeling in the speaker than in 'Letters from Yorkshire,' as the speaker remembers his deceased family and is left longing to be with them once again.

Discursive markers to show that poems are being compared



Clear point that identifies a similarity between what the poems show

Both poems deal with loss, emphasised through the memories of a place. In 'Letters from Yorkshire' the speaker has moved away yet thinks about Yorkshire as a place that symbolises life. She questions whether or not her new existence, away from Yorkshire, is meaningful in comparison to that of the one she receives letters from. She imagines the sender working the land and seeing the **"seasons,"** as he is able to work outdoors. Despite the harsh, cold weather she knows he is experiencing, she describes his knuckles as **"singing."** **The use of this verb implies** that his work, although challenging, brings him happiness and that he enjoys doing it. **The word connotes a sense of pleasure, as his body reacts positively to the work as he is at one with nature.** This contrasts to the way that she describes her own work **"feeding,"** words onto a **"blank screen."** **The verb "feeding" implies that her day to day work is more of a chore and is almost forced.** The **"blank,"** screen she faces could also metaphorically represent the lack of excitement and passion she feels for her new life as it connotes a sense of emptiness. **The speaker conveys a strong sense of longing for Yorkshire as the distance has almost detached her from her roots. Dooley suggests that moving away from your hometown and roots can catch up with you, suggesting that you don't always know what you have until it is gone.**

Quotations flow in sentences

Explanation explains the quotation, zooms in on words and considers what the poet is trying to suggest

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The speaker states that it isn't **"romantic,"** perhaps referring to her moving away from Yorkshire. Many people who grow up in rural areas long to migrate to larger cities; rejecting the humble, simpler way of life for a more exciting, modern, fast existence. The speaker was perhaps guilty of this as her reference to her "screen," could be symbolic of modernity and thus the city. **It could therefore be suggested that the poet is implying that it is important not to reject your roots in pursuit of other things as ultimately you may end up longing for what you once had, and like the speaker, you will be left feeling "blank," or empty. This sense of emptiness is further emphasised through the poet's use of structure as there is no rhyme. This could represent how she feels detached from her roots in Yorkshire, as though her new life has no structure or purpose.**

Explanation explains the quotation, zooms in on words and considers what the poet is trying to suggest

Explanation also explores the use of structure and its effect

This longing for a place is also shown in 'Eden Rock'. Like the speaker of 'Letters from Yorkshire', the speaker is unhappy. He imagines his parents and pet dog, **"waiting,"** for him at Eden Rock. The name of this special place, where the family once picnicked, implies that for the speaker, it is a paradise. Both of the speaker's parents, and his pet dog, are dead. It could therefore be argued that it isn't the picnic site that is a paradise, **instead it is the idea of being reunited and able to spend time together that seems a paradise. Like in 'Letters from Yorkshire,' the speaker is therefore unsatisfied where he is.** He details seeing his parents who are **"beckoning,"** him to **"cross,"** the stream. **The use of metaphor here, represents how he believes that his parents want him to "cross," to through death to be with them.** The speaker is almost **"blinded,"** by **"three suns,"** in the sky. Again, **the use of metaphor here, implies that the memory of his parents and pet provides him with the warmth, hope and guidance that the sun connotes.** In addition, the sun is vital for life of Earth and **perhaps implies that without his family, he feels unable to live.**

Clear point that identifies a similarity between what the poems show

Discursive markers to show that poems are being compared

Explanation identifies the poet technique used, explains the quotation, zooms in on words and considers what the poet is trying to suggest

Quotations flow in sentences



Clear point that identifies a similarity between what the poems show

This idea of a place or memory providing light and hope is also conveying in 'Letters from Yorkshire' as the speaker refers to the letters that contain her memories as "pouring in light and air." Both light and air are vital for life, suggesting that she too feels that without this element of her past in her life, she would be unable to live and carry on. Both poets, therefore, illustrate the importance of one's family and roots to giving a sense of purpose and happiness.

Unlike the speaker in 'Letters from Yorkshire,' all the speaker in 'Eden Rock' is left with is his memory; a sense of abject isolation and depression is evident as a result. The poem is written in quatrains, each line perhaps symbolising the father, mother, son and dog when they were together as a family unit. However, the final quatrain is divided into a 3 lined verse and a one lined verse. The 3 lined verse perhaps symbolises the father, mother and pet, together in Heaven, whilst the single lined verse represents the speaker's isolation and sense of abandonment. The single lined verse shows the speaker's despair as he notes that he had not realised "it would be like this." This is perhaps a reference to his adult life, since losing his family. Like the speaker in 'Letters from Yorkshire' with her "blank" screen, he feels a sense of emptiness.

Both poets, therefore, show the difficulties that people face when growing up. Causley implies that the loss of family can have devastating effects on a child, even in adulthood and that memories can provide warmth and hope. Likewise, Dooley emphasises the importance of one's roots and the life and vitality that memories can provide.

Quotations flow in sentences

Discursive markers to show that poems are being compared

Explanation also explores the use of structure and its effect

Explanation considers what both of the poets is trying to suggest