

WVW

Explore the ways in which Browning creates mystery in this poem.

In Robert Browning's poem "Love in a Life" he uses syntax, diction of searching, and the irony of the title to create a feeling of suspense.

Robert Browning consistently uses syntax, or the structure of the poem, to further the feeling of suspense in his poem. Both stanzas of the poem have one sentence split into three small lines for the beginning of the poem, and one sentence split into two very long lines. The similar structures of the stanzas give a feeling of repetition. This feeling of repetition gives the feeling that there is no end, that there is no prize waiting for the poet once he has finished his searching. This adds to the feeling of suspense by giving the reader the want to know whether the poet will find his wife again. Although the beginnings and ends have the same structure the middles of both of the stanzas are different. The middle of the first stanza is one sentence split into three lines, while the middle of the second stanza is four sentences in three lines. Even while the middles of both stanzas have three lines, the difference in the number of sentences in these three lines breaks the feeling of repetition. The breaking of repetition adds to the suspense of repetition by showing a change, the change means something new happened, but it is unknown what new thing presented itself in the second stanza to require four sentences. The unknown of if it's good or bad adds to the suspense.

The poem's diction of searching gives a feeling of suspense as the poet searches for his wife, and it is unknown if he will find her. With the use of 'in medias res', the poem begins with "Room after room, / I hunt the house / We inhabit together" (lines 1-3). To begin the poem with imagery of searching for someone makes one wonder, who is he searching for? Where could this person be? Will they be found? This immediately gives the poem a feeling of suspense of when or if the lost person will be found. There are slight pauses in the poem that the poet's wife will be found. Such as line 13, "Still the same chance! she goes as I enter." This line has quite a bit of hope in it. That feeling of hope shows how much the poet wants to find his wife. As the reader can feel how much the poet wants, believes he can find his wife, they want it to. It adds to the suspense of if he will find his wife, because one has become emotionally invested in the search with him. The suspense of the poem is never truly given a conclusion. The poem's final line "Such closets to search, such alcoves to importune!", still uses diction of searching. All throughout the poem one searches with the poet to find his wife, and by the end are still searching. The suspense continues even when the poem is finished as the search goes on.

The poem uses the irony of the title to make it seem as though the poem will have a happy ending. After all "Love in a Life" makes it sound as though the poem will be happy and about true love, soulmates even, so one continues through the poem expecting the poet to finally find his wife, but he never does. There are lines that hint he may find her, such as line 4, "Heart, fear nothing, for heart, thou shalt find her-". Line 4 shows that the poet believes he will find his wife, son, and one wants to believe him. The title hints at a happy ending why shouldn't there be one? So the reader waits in suspense as line after line he searches for his wife, waiting for a happy ending. As the poem goes on, the feeling of suspense of when she will be found continues, but with each line a distinct feeling of melancholy is added as he continues his search but doesn't find her. However there is still hope in the poem, so instead of feeling like the search is useless one continues. Lines such as line 14, "Spend my whole day in the quest - who cares?". There is still hope, so we continue, because after all, the title suggests a happy ending. So one waits in suspense for the happy ending to come.

The suspense in this poem is created with an expert use of syntax, diction of searching, and the title which hints at a happy ending. The structure of the poem is repetitive but has small moments of difference that give hope to the ending of the search. The diction of searching makes one wonder when the poet's wife will be found. The title makes it seem impossible that this poem will have a sad ending so one continues. All of these techniques added together gives the poem a feeling of suspense, waiting for the wife to be found.

## Essay #2

In the excerpt James gives the impression that Mrs. Penniman is once again messing in Catherine's love life when Catherine does not want her to.

Throughout the book Mrs. Penniman had a bad habit of messing in the affairs of others, specifically Catherine and Morris. Catherine often times did not want this, even Mr. Townsend would often be annoyed by her antics. Her meddling often caused more harm than good, and Catherine and Morris would have to decide the dramatics to truly understand what the other wanted. Catherine had a bit of a hard doing this, Morris did not. When everything fell apart for Catherine she did forgive "Mrs. Penniman for taking too much upon herself" and creating a mess.

When Mrs. Penniman tried to do this again years later, Catherine was understandably upset. Mrs. Penniman tries to convince Catherine that all will be well this time around. That Morris just wants to be her friend. That Morris thinks Catherine misunderstood him. That Morris' happiness depends on it. Catherine doesn't take any of it. When the door bell rings and Mrs. Penniman had a face that "seemed to confer something" Catherine is understandably livid. Mrs. Penniman decided to mess with her personal affairs, a second time.

In the excerpt, Mrs. Penniman is shown to be messing in Catherine's love life again. However, this time she does show shame for what she has done. James shows her to be a similar woman to how she was years ago, but she has changed.

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good job especially on poetry

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## English Essays

on A) In Robert Browning's poem "Love in a Life", Browning uses personification, punctuation and metaphor to create mystery in this poem. ✓

In the first stanza, the speaker is determined to chase down in all the house who may be his lover, we're not actually sure since we don't have any information about the "person" he desperately runs after: this firstly creates a sort of confusion and mystery: the reader wants to know more. For example, in the three first lines, there is the line "we inhabit together" again, we can be confused about how they would inhabit together if the other person is not even here: maybe the speaker sees a ghost or maybe he is just schizophrenic, we still don't know. Then, at the end of the stanza, the poet wrote "left in the curtain, the couch's perfume!" which means the woman is either really here or it's just the speaker's imagination. This quote makes us learn more about this mysterious soulmate but it's still really vague. With this confusion and mystery, the reader constantly feels that he is about to catch up his may-be lover. ✓

good paragraph

Then, in the second stanza, the speaker is frustrated but will not give up. The more we read and the more we feel that the two characters are playing hide and seek: "Still the same chance! She goes out as I enter" (s. 2 l. 5). In this line, the reader

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would also be dubitative about who is "she".  
"She" could be his lover, it could be a personification  
of happiness or of love since we don't know if he's chasing  
something concrete. Also, Browning used a lot of dashes  
in his poem in general but mostly in the second stanza.  
example: "I try the fresh fortune—" These dashes makes  
us feel like the speaker isn't going to the end of his thought  
which ~~me~~ creates an effect of mystery: what was he going  
to say? maybe it could've answered our precedent questions.  
Lastly, Browning deepens the mystery by using a metaphor  
at the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> line of the stanza: "Spent my whole  
day in the quest [...] — But it is twilight; you see; with such  
scutes to explore" ; "twilight" can be a metaphor to death  
or being close to death; if night is death then day could  
be life, which could also explain that the speaker was  
searching for "her" all of his life and then we can maybe  
understand why love or happiness were personified before. He  
knows that this search will last forever, like the "whole  
day". ✓ good

Even though the principal theme of this poem was separation  
and loss, Browning added mystery to keep the reader  
and make us want to know more. The end of this poem  
also suggests that the searches will continue which  
makes the reader captivated and wanting to know more. 10

POETRY ESSAY

19/20

Explore the ways in which Browning creates mystery in this poem.

In Robert Browning's poem "Love in a Life" Browning creates mystery through a first person speaker, the metaphors and personifications and also through punctuation.

In his poem "Love in Life" Browning writes about a man struggling to find the woman he loves. The first-person speaker shows all the thoughts of this man without knowing everything about the current situation which adds a lot of mystery since the reader don't know if the woman is still alive or not. To illustrate even more this effect of mystery, the speaker ~~don't~~ <sup>doesn't</sup> add ~~to much~~ <sup>many</sup> details like in "I hunt the house through", he says that he has been searching the whole house but not exactly where he did. This is the same thing in the line eleven "I try the fresh fortune" he tries new ways to find the woman but doesn't explain them. This lack of information contributes a lot to create mystery.

Then the devices help a lot to illustrate this effect of mystery, in the poem several metaphors and personifications are present to add to it. The metaphor "Spend my whole day in

the quest" suggests that Browning wants to say "Life" through the word "day" which means that the man is not only looking for the woman that lives with him and who has disappeared, but he is looking for Love since all of his life. This explanation can make echo to the title "Love in a Life" to head to the fact that it is just a man who's looking for Love. Another example of a personification that adds mystery to this poem is "Next time, herself! — not the trouble behind her." here Robert Browning personifies the world "trouble" like if it was walking behind the woman. The thing that adds mystery is the fact that it is the word "trouble" which is negative and also the lack of information of what kind of problem she has.

Finally the punctuation builds up this part of mystery in this poem: for example "thou shalt find her — / Next time herself! —" the dashes create shifts here to explain man really have to find her and he already did but it was not really her. Next example is "Spand my whole day in the quest, — who cares?" here the dashes also create a shift one more time but this time it's a really big one because the man jumps between his phase where's he is looking hard for this woman and then he almost gave up and tells himself "who cares?" like if suddenly change his attitude and thinks about stopping his search.

To conclude, all these devices ~~help~~ like the first person speaker, the metaphors and personifications and the punctuation helps to create this effect of mystery. ✓

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## PROSE ESSAY

What impression does James make of Mrs Penniman and her intentions at this moment?

In Henry James' novel Washington Square, and ~~more~~ particularly in this extract James presents Mrs Penniman as a character who stands for her opinions and also as a reliable person.

At this moment, James describes Mrs Penniman as a ~~reliable~~ ~~woman~~ confident woman who stands for her ideas through her dialogues: "His happiness depends upon it. Is not that a good reason?" asked Mrs Penniman impressively.

The exclamation mark shows that she is confident to speak like this to Catherine. She asks her a rhetorical question to illustrate her confidence and to explain to Catherine that she needs to see Morris. The next example is "I think you will be happier after you have seen him." Mrs Penniman expresses directly her thoughts to Catherine to show her that she absolutely ~~has~~ has to see him. The last example is "My Dearest Catherine,"

stammered Mrs. Penniman, "just wait till you see him!" The punctuation adds this aspect of confidence Mrs Penniman has, here the exclamation mark shows her excitement over the meeting between Catherine and Morris. The word "stammered" shows also that she cut Catherine in her sentence ~~and~~ another sign of her confidence she has for her ideas and thoughts.

Mrs Penniman is also shown here as a reliable character: "He sent you a message," said Mrs. Penniman. "I promised him to deliver it and I must keep my promise." The part "I must keep my promise" really shows her as a reliable ~~lady~~ lady and also that she is concerned about what Morris has to say to Catherine. The example of "this carrying of messages and redeeming of promises" illustrates that Catherine thinks that all of this is nonsense but she also has conscience that Mrs Penniman can ~~be~~ be ~~reliable~~ reliable. The last example here is "Mrs. Penniman, however, with her high conception of the sanctity of pledges, carried her point." "high conception of the sanctity" add even more effect to the fact that she is a person that people can count on.

In Conclusion, Henry James presents the character of Mrs. Penniman as someone we can count on and also as a confident woman.

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Explore the ways in which Browning creates mystery in this poem.

In Robert Browning's poem love in a life he creates mystery by not making it clear what is the man looking for in the poem and if he is ever going to find it. ✓✓ good!

The thing that the man is looking for is not precise. It could be possible that he is just looking for his wife that for some reason left. In this quote "the couch's perfume" we could think that his wife was here not too long ago and that he could still smell her all over the couch. It is also a personification of the couch because it is not really the couch's perfume but the perfume of his wife that she left on the couch. He could also be searching for love and "she", "her" could just be a metaphor of the love that he can't get and that he is desperately looking for. "spend my whole day in the quest" this quote can persuade us that his whole life he has been looking for love but without success because it could just be a metaphor of life. The fact that we don't really know what is the man after which makes the poem mysterious because we could interpret it as many things like his wife or love. ✓✓ good!

The second thing that adds mystery is that it creates a sense of <sup>excitement</sup> because we don't really if in the end his is ever going to get what he is looking for. The time passes and because of the time stanza or symmetrical we have the feeling that he is just starting over and going <sup>through</sup> the same process over and over and that he will never find it. It creates a sense of monotony and repetition. He also almost gives up "who cares" and we could think that he just abandoned the quest he is but then he gets hope again "it is twilight you see" which can be a metaphor of death and he might gain a wife in the world of the dead and finally be reunited and that could be why he is hopeful again. In the last sentence there is the repetition of "such" which can accentuate the fact that he has hope again and that they are a lot of places to find what he is looking for. ✓

In conclusion not knowing what the character is looking for adds to the mystery and questions the reader on what could it be. And also the mystery of is he ever going to find it in the end.

10/10 Excellent

What impression does James make of Mrs Pennimon and her intentions at this moment?

In Henry James' novel Washington Square he makes us think that Mrs Pennimon's intention are bad but also that she is just a hopeless romantic that loves too much drama and focus too much on others romantic life.

Henry James make a bad impression of Mrs Pennimon because she still talks about Morris to Catherine even tho she knows that she doesn't like it. "Shall you be angry if I speak about him" she knows that Catherine won't like it but she keeps talking about him without any regards over Catherine's feelings. There is also a repetition of fear "Catherine had frightened her aunt" but she also had frightened herself "this really shows us that Catherine does really not want to be with Mr Townsend and that she is even scared." James also make a bad impression of aunt Lovinia because of the third person narrator. "how little she had to thank her aunt for in the season of misery." We know because of the third person narrator that Catherine still has feeling over Mrs Pennimon because she interposed <sup>herself</sup> too much in her romantic life. It does not help the reader to have a better impression of Mrs Pennimon.

But Mrs Pennimon still does not totally gives the impression that she just did that to be mean with Catherine we also know that she is

craving for drama because she is bored with her life. "His happiness depends upon it" this quote makes a better impression of Mrs Bennet because she wants Morris to be happy and she truly thinks that Catherine and Morris are meant to be together and that this would bring happiness to both of them. Also the use of "dearest" makes think that she had good intentions and that she really has affection for her niece even tho she hurt her. In this quote of the book we realize that Mrs Bennet just loves too much drama and has good intention.

In conclusion James makes Mrs Bennet and her intentions in this quote look bad but because we know that Mrs Bennet is just bored and loves drama it makes it look less bad and just that she is not listening enough at what Catherine has to say.

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