

## English 12: Stand-Alone Text

**Scale: 2**

**Comment:**

The entire paper relies on three lengthy quotations. There is no analysis and almost no student writing.

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Contrast was used many times throughout the poem "The Dumka". It was used in separating the significant events of the old couple's lives into pleasant and unpleasant memories. An example of this in the poem is "...and then the war, the white frame rent house, the homecoming, the homecoming, and afterwards, green lawns and a new piano with its mahogany gleam like pond ice at dawn...". Contrast was used to show how the old couple got to this point in life. "They would sit there in their old age, side by side, quite still, backs rigid, hands in their laps, and look straight ahead at the yellow light of the phonograph...They would sit quietly as something dense and radiant swirled around them, something like the dust storms of the thirties by smearing the sky green with doom but afterwards drenched the air with an amber glow and then vanished...". The difference in lifestyle between time periods also used contrast. "...the farm in the twilight with piano music spiralling out across red roads and fields of maize, bread lines in the city, women and men lining main street like mannequins...the slow mornings of coffee and newspapers and evenings of music and scattered bits of talk...". The use of contrast shaped and molded the poem to reiterate the title.