

I am going to analyse one poem by Sylvia Plath, written in 1962, one year before she committed suicide, she was damaged about the infidelities of her husband and because he has left her for another woman. At this time she and her husband had two children, one daughter with two years and a son who was born this year. The poem is called *Years*, and I think that this title refers to the years she passed suffering her husband's infidelities. She passed a lot of years with a depression. Ten years before her suicide, she tried a first suicide attempt. This poem is from her collection *The Collected Poems*, published and written in 1962. The other poem I am going to analyse is by Sylvia's husband, the also poet Ted Hughes. His poem is called *The Minotaur* and is from his volume *Birthday Letters*, published and written in 1998. Each year after his first wife's death, he wrote her a poem for her birthday. He felt (and the feminist movement felt too) he was the responsible of his wife's death, because he left her. I have looked for the word "Minotaur" at *The Collins English Dictionary, 21st Edition* and I have found this definition: **from the Greek mythology, a monster with the head of a bull and the body of a man. It was kept in the labyrinth in Crete, feeding on human flesh, until destroyed by Theseus.** I think that the poet felt like a monster, specially as this monster, he feeds with his wife's pain, and now he feels he must be kept in an avoided site, until he will die.

I think it is better to analyse in first place Sylvia's poem, because it explains why her husband felt responsible. *Years* is divided into 6 paragraphs; the four first ones have 5 verses each one; paragraph 5 has three verses and the last one has two verses (if we put together the two last paragraph we have a poem with 5 paragraphs of 5 verses each one). During all the poem Sylvia talks about her mental illness, she wants to die, but now she has two babies, and they make her happy. In the first paragraph she talks about her child as good thoughts that enter in her mind, and these thoughts are compared with animals. I think that she wants to compare the enter of her child, as the enter of an animal in your life, animals do not know why they are in your life, but they are there, and they make you happy. But she is so depressed that her child will not make her happy. In the second paragraph she talks directly to God and she says she is not like Him. He is in Heaven for Eternity, he is surrounded by stars that bright, but she does not like this. She does not want to be in this Eternity, it bores her. I think she says that because in Christian religion, when a person commits suicide goes to Hell, and he/ she spends condemned all Eternity. If Sylvia tried a suicide attempt in 1953, and probably she already thought to commit suicide while she was writing this poem, she would know she would be condemned. Because this, she says that Heaven bores her, because she would never go there. In paragraph three she tells us that her love will live

more than her soul. She will ever love her child, and probably she will ever love her husband too, but she is so injured that her soul is already death. In verses 14 and 15 she talks about the seven Apocalypse riders, who went on their horses, and they gave Death, they show the end of life. I think that Sylvia knows she is going to die, and because this she says she is hearing the hooves of the seven horses. In paragraph 4 I think Sylvia thinks that her husband's infidelity is like a tiger, it seem very exciting at the very beginning, but it can injure someone. This injuring knocks her door and it provokes the suffering of the poet, as Christ suffered in the Cross. In paragraph 5 the poet refers to her husband and his new love. They make Sylvia to bleed, as if God would make judgment. But she knows they are not worried about her pain. The poem was written one year before her death. In the last paragraph the poet thinks that the horses leave her now, and her hope to continue living starts another time

The poem by Hughes is divided into 6 paragraphs of four verses each one. In the first one he compares his form of acting with his wife, with an old heirloom that has already cracks. In the second paragraph he says that he has tormented his wife and because that she is "demented". For this their child will be traumatized. He make so damage to his wife that she committed suicide putting her head in a gas oven, and their child grew without a mother. In the third paragraph he tells us that he has destroyed his wife's mind as he would made kindling her life. She gave shape her destruction to in her poems, but then, in real life, she tried to hide, and he thought she was calmed. In paragraph number 5 he tells us that because his wife committed suicide, their child are ever remembering this fact. Her decision ended with the problem of their broken marriage, but their child became traumatized. In the last paragraph Hughes talks to his wife and tells her that her mother lost her husband and her daughter, and he says her that she would not have given her mother this pain (the pain of losing a young daughter). Her corpse will rest with her father's one.

In conclusion I think that Sylvia shows perfectly her pain, she wanted to show clear that she was suffered during her life, and although her child gave her a little bite of hope, she was so injured that she did not want to continue with life. Her husband's poem shows his feeling of culpability, but I think too that he wanted to seem innocent, as if he did not know he was damaging his wife, and because that, I think he was criticized by the feminist movement, because he only thought in himself and his lovers, and he did not never thought in his wife's feelings. We must take into account that his second wife died as the first one, and also killed the daughter she had with the poet. These two suicides show the egoism of Ted Hughes.