



m i r r o r

b y

s y l v i a p l a t h

M I R R O R

by Sylvia Plath

I am silver and exact. I have no preconceptions.
Whatever I see I swallow immediately
Just as it is, unmisted by love or dislike.
I am not cruel, only truthful ,
The eye of a little god, four-cornered.
Most of the time I meditate on the opposite wall.
It is pink, with speckles. I have looked at it so long
I think it is part of my heart. But it flickers.
Faces and darkness separate us over and over.

Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,
Searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.
I see her back, and reflect it faithfully.
She rewards me with tears and an agitation of hands.
I am important to her. She comes and goes.
Each morning it is her face that replaces the darkness.
In me she has drowned a young girl, and in me an old woman
Rises toward her day after day, like a terrible fish.

ANALYSIS OF *MIRROR*

1. Identify two metaphors.

2. Identify two examples of personification.

3. Why do you think that the poet writes, "I am not cruel, only truthful"?

4. What does "I mediate on the opposite wall mean"?

5. Based on the poem, who might the "liars" be and what might the liars have her searching for?

6. How is *Mirror* connected to the following texts?

The Suitcase Lady

Continuities

Lars and the Real Girl

7. On a separate piece of paper, illustrate the poem by drawing a picture that includes the five strongest images in the poem. Think about the “colours” that pop into your head. Use ALL of the white space.

K N O W L E D G E / U N D E R S T A N D I N G

identifies literary devices in a literary text

1 2 3 4 5

T H I N K I N G

analyses the poem critically and insightfully; makes inferences based on the content of the poem

2 4 6 8 10

C O M M U N I C A T I O N

writes clear, organized and detailed responses using proper form (i.e. paragraphs, grammar)

1 2 3 4 5

A P P L I C A T I O N

makes connections between multiple texts and explains the connections with insight

1 2 3 4 5