

## PROJECT REPORT

English Honours

Semester 3

ENGA, CC5


**Title of the Project- Sylvia Plath as a Confessional Poet**

**Purpose of the Project**

The main purpose of the project was to make the students aware of the contribution of Sylvia Plath as a confessional poet. Main features of confessional poetry were discussed with students along with contributions of celebrated poets like Robert Lowell, Anne Sexton and Sylvia Plath. They were asked to read any three poems of Sylvia Plath such as Ariel, Tulips, Arrival of the Bee Box in addition to Daddy which is in their syllabus. They were also encouraged to look up the novel The Bell Jar as it focuses on Plath's mental agony. The students were encouraged to focus on both theme of style of the poems selected by them. They were also asked to adhere to the rules of MLA style sheet, 8<sup>th</sup> edition while making the format of the project as well as Work Cited List. This project was a learning experience for them as they were exposed to some of the canonical works of Sylvia Plath and also learnt the format of writing a research paper.

**Outline of the Project-**

Introduction- Students were asked to focus on the following areas:

  
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- a) Students were made to focus on the features of confessional poetry and locate Sylvia Plath as a renowned confessional poet.
- b) Most of the works of Sylvia Plath show the strange mingling of sadness, anger, hatred, despair and yet an appreciation of life. Students were encouraged to read any three poems of Plath apart from Daddy and include brief analysis on these poems as part of their introductory material. They were also encouraged to cross refer to The Bell Jar

#### Thematic and stylistic analysis of Daddy

Students were asked to critically analysis the text focusing on the text from autobiographical, feminist standpoints as well as refer to the mingling of historical and personal issues in Plath's poetry. The poem is a strong expression of resentment against the male domination of women. To reflect the theme, Plath makes use of stringing imagery. Students were asked to focus on the images used by Plath to communicate trauma, anxiety and claustrophobia.

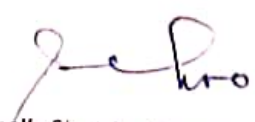
#### Conclusion

Students were asked to conclude the project by adding their personal appreciation of the text

#### Outcome of the Project

The project enabled the students to achieve better understanding of Sylvia Plath's Daddy. The famous critic Steiner calls this haunting poem the "Guernica of modern poetry". Hence, it is important to understand this celebrated poem.

  
Co-ordinator's Signature

  
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