

Love and Loss: Freud's Melancholia in Plath's Poetry

Author's Statement

In 76106: *Writing about Literature, Art and Culture*, my first-year writing class, I was able to take a deep dive into some of Sylvia Plath's poetry for my final paper. In this assignment, we had the chance to analyze a poem through the lens of a specific philosopher or school of thought. I have always been interested in Plath's work, and the themes in Freud's discussion of what he called the "correlation of melancholia and mourning" aligned well with her poem "Mad Girl's Love Song."

Using an existing framework to examine a text like I did for this paper was an entirely new experience for me, but the process strengthened my analytical and writing skills greatly. I also enjoyed having the freedom to choose a topic that interested me, which led me to engage more deeply with both texts and ultimately helped me produce a more thoughtful and rigorous analysis. This paper felt particularly meaningful because it allowed me to connect intellectual theory with creative expression, revealing how critical frameworks can deepen our understanding of the emotional and conceptual depth of a literary work.

- Audrey Rentzepis