

English 12: Stand-Alone Text

Scale: 3

Comment:

This response was awarded a 3. It addressed contrast but the analysis is simplistic and the support meagre.

The contrast in B.H. Fairchild's "The Dumka" compares the lifestyle of the speaker's parents in the present, and during the Great Depression of the nineteen thirties.

The speaker uses the Dumka's strong contrasting parts as an example of the horrors of the Great Depression. "and radiant swirled around them, something like the dust storms of the thirties" is an example of the speaker using the music to explain the depression. The lifestyle in the depression was horrible "leaving profiles of children on pillows and a pale gauze over mantles and table tops" had everyone miserable. The lifestyle the parents had now was wonderful. The parents "would sit alone together" and listen to their Dumka music. The lifestyle they had now was calm, relaxing and happy, unlike during the depression.