

## English 12: Stand-Alone Text

**Scale: 3**

**Comment:**

This response was awarded a 3, while it recognizes the contrast between the past and the present, the support is barely adequate.

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It all started in the Great Depression, but that is not how they live today. “The dust storms of the thirties that began by smearing the sky green with doom,” is how his parents remember that time. “But [now] it was the memory of dust that encircled them and made them smile faintly.” The Author, B.H. Fairchild, masters the contrast in this poem. It is all subtle, but stands out very strongly. In lines five to six, he describes the parents as sitting in their old age, rigid and still, and makes them sound harsh. Right after, in lines seven to nine, he tells of the “lamplit window seen across the plains late at night,” which is very soft and comfortable sounding. “The Dumka” is full of engaging contrasts that take us from the past to the present. It is an example of how much we should appreciate the way we live.