

English 12: Stand-Alone Text

Scale: 4

Comment:

This response was awarded a 4 because it presents a superficial yet organized discussion of contrast in the poem. A competent response.

In the poem, "The Dumka," there is contrast between the past lives of parents and the lives that they are living right now. Their past lives were not pleasant "as something dense and radiant swirled around them, something like the dust storms of the thirties." It was not a good time so they reminisce about the war, but they are able to "smile faintly and raise or bow their heads as they spoke," because they are now happy and content since the "homecoming." Instead of sitting with their "hands in their laps" and looking straight ahead, they now possess comfort and "he would reach across and lift her hand as if it were the last unbroken leaf and he would hold her hand in his."

The war brought the parents discomfort and separated them but once the unhappy times of the thirties had finally come to an end, they at last, noticed "the new season" ahead of them and came together.