

## English 12: Stand-Alone Text

**Scale: 4**

**Comment:**

The student displays a good understanding of the task. The writing is clear and the references are appropriate.

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In the poem, "The Dumka," there is contrast between the currently sterile life of the old parents, and the reliving of their dynamic and eventful past. Although the parents "sit alone together" and separate themselves from their "vanishing neighborhood" they remain proactive through colorful memories of their lives. The narrator describes the ups and downs in the parents' lives throughout the Great Depression, the mass move to the city, the war and finally the war's conclusion; these momentous events in the parents' lives contrast severely with their now structured lives of morning "coffee and newspaper" and "evenings of music." After having experienced so much in their lives it seems the old parents have retracted from the world and jumped into a simple structure that repeats itself daily. The poem "The Dumka" provides an excellent example of contrast through the difference between the parents' dynamic past and their static present.