

## English 12: Stand-Alone Text

Scale: 5

**Comment:**

It is a fluid, thorough analysis of the question and provides solid references and support.

Memories from the past are influential to our present and future. In “The Dumka,” B.H. Fairchild vividly illustrates the contrasting images that are abundant in the couples’ life. Their lively and eventful past is contrasted to their slow and still present. The couple sits rigidly together, looking “straight ahead,” as they listen to music. They “sit quietly” as the music entwines with their memories, brining forth images of the “dust storms of the thirties,” and of skies smeared “green with doom,” warning of danger to come. The couple experiences poverty during the war, but celebrate wealth in the post-war economy. As the war hits home, they reside in a “white frame rent house” and must wait in “bread lines” with other struggling Americans. With “the homecoming,” a renewal of their old life is experienced. Once again they have “green lawns” and a “new piano” to play the music which they love so deeply. Despite their love for one another, the couple is isolated. They are “alone together” throughout the monotony of their “slow mornings” in a “vanishing neighborhood.” As old friends and neighbors move on, the couple remains together, listening to the “music of their lives,” while gazing into memories which only they can see.