

Comparative Paragraph - "Goodbye Farewell compared to A Valediction Forbidding Mourning"

Notes: Choose a particular method for writing your comparative paragraph

- 1.State the Author & the work your are talking about
- 2.State the author & the work you are comparing it to
- 3.Write a topic statement about how this comparison can help you to better understand the purpose of both poems
- 4.Tell us how they are similar – what they help us understand
- 5.Tell us how they are different - how they show us different things

John Donne's "A Valediction Forbidding Mourning" and Scott Campbell's "Good-bye Farewell," express similar thematic characteristics that help the reader to better understand the nature of true love. For example, in Donne's poem, the speaker's words "As stiff twin compasses are two;/Thy soul, the fix'd foot, makes no show / To move, but doth, if th' other do," exemplify his belief that love can transcend any obstacle. In this passage, the speaker relates the directive power of love to a compass. By relating the "fix'd foot" of his lover to that of an unwavering compass hand, the compass symbolizes the directive power of love. Here, love guides the speaker, it provides him a pathway through all of life's difficult obstacles. The speaker's inability to move his foot without his partner, shows the support that he gains from this love.

Similarly, Scott Campbell's "Good-bye Farewell" relates his final stanza to a love that cannot be broken even in the face of death. The lines, "the past that is now death, has made us high as dual stars," expresses the speaker's deep connection to his lover. The speaker addresses his "dear" and "sweet" to show his affection for the person he addresses. He then connects the reader to this person by suggesting that their love for each other will make them fixtures in the heavens or as "high as dual stars." Love, therefore, becomes a representation of timeless guidance, shining in

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the heavens of the mortal heart - just as the North Star might shine and guide the way of a lost explorer.

While these two poems speak about the nature of true love, they are very different in how they see the finality of this love. In Donne's poem, he ends with a promise: "Thy firmness makes my circle just,/And makes me end where I begun." The speaker promises to come back to his love and to return to the star that guides him. Just as a wedding ring promises to seal the bond between two lovers, the speakers will make "[his] circle just" by honouring his promise to return.

However, in Campbell's poem, the speaker speaks of love that is much more final. In the final stanza, the speaker says, "...as I take my final breath,/I'm feeling close and talking far..." to show us that his love cannot keep him from dying. Though the speaker has committed to being with his lover for all eternity "...as high as dual star," he cannot prevent himself from the death that awaits him. In this way, Campbell's Valediction does not forbid mourning. Though the speaker's love is cemented by a spiritual connection, his is a sad farewell to the time he and his loved one have shared on this planet.