Response of “Morning Song”

1. Surface-level Reading.

The title of the poem is Morning Song, which is written by Sylvia Plath. The poem was published at 1961. This poem is about the moment that a baby comes out in this world through the baby’s mother. The narrative perspective is the first person narrative point of view, which uses “I” (7). The narrator who is the mother describes the baby in various way such as nature and scientific elements to show not only celebration of the baby’s birth, but also illustrate the unusual mood of the baby, the mother and its background.

1. Observations.

The narrator describes her baby as many things, and these are not always celebrating or holy. The title of the poem, “Morning Song” seems to mean the beginning of life and its glorious illustration. The mother indicates her baby as nature and materials. In the phrases “Love set you going like fat gold watch. / The midwife slapped your footsoles, and your bald cry” (1-2), the baby is recognized as a fat gold watch, and its cry is bald. In the other phrases, “New statue. / In drafty museum, your nakedness” (4-5), the baby is illustrated as the statue with nakedness. In these phrases “All night your moth-breath / Flickers among the flat pink roses.”(10-11), the narrator compares the baby’s breathe with moth glimmering in pink roses. In the last stanza, “One cry, and I stumble from bed, cow-heavy and floral / In my Victorian nightgown. /Your mouth opens clean as a cat’s. “(13-15), the narrator portrays baby’s cry as cow-heavy and floral and represent its mouth as same as a cat has. In the phrase, “And now you try / Your handful of notes; / The clear vowels rise like balloons” (16-18), the mother describes her baby’s cry as music and balloons. On the other hand, the narrator implicates that the mood that surrounds the baby would not be as bright as readers expect. This can be shown in some phrases. In the phrase, “In drafty museum, your nakedness / Shadows our safety. We stand round blankly as walls.”(5-6), the narrator describes people who encircle the baby just stand without any action. In the phrase, “I’m no more your mother / Than the cloud that distills a mirror to reflect its own slow / Effacement at the wind’s hand.”(7-9), the mother who is narrator regards herself as something that is going to be disappeared by wind. In the phrase, “The window square / Whitens and swallows its dull stars.”(15-16), the mother metaphor the night time as window removes dull stars.

1. Analysis

The title of this poem, “Morning Song” seems to allow reader to think that this poem would tell positivity or brightness. However, this poem actually does not always talk about the bright side of the baby’s birth. The narrator usually uses materials and nature resources to depict how precious and vivid the baby is. She metaphors the baby as “a fat gold watch” (1) and “New statue” to describe its vividness. Nature resources represent the baby’s actions, which are cry and breathe. For example, the baby’s cry is shown as “bald cry”(2) to illustrate its nakedness. In the phrase, “One cry, and I stumble from bed, cow-heavy and floral / In my Victorian nightgown.”(13-14), the narrator portrays that the baby cry sounds big as cow does to ask milk in her nightgown, even she almost fall down. The mother describes the baby’s action that is similar to say vowels as “handful of notes;”(16) and “balloons”(17) to show that the mother thinks the baby sings a song and says some vowels even though the baby cannot say anything yet. By contrast, the surroundings of the baby does not seem to be so bright. In the phrase, “In a drafty museum, your nakedness / Shadows our safety. We stand round blankly as walls.”(5-6), the narrator says the nakedness, which is the baby, threatens other people’s safety in opened museum. It implies people who surrounds the baby would know that the baby can affect them negatively. In the phrase, “The window square / Whitens and swallows its dull stars.”(15-16), the mother metaphors the night time as window removes dull stars. Since the dull stars which is not really bright and shiny would symbolize the fate of the baby, they would be disappeared pretty soon. It implicates that the baby would be dead soon by something else. Even though this poem discusses the moment of the baby’s birth, it implies that the mother could not celebrate her baby’s birth as much as other normal mothers because of some other factors such as historical reasons and cultural values.