**Anthology**

Student’s Name

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Course

Date

The poems I selected greatly revolve around family and home theme. These themes are important to me since I was an international student. I was far from home and my family; I missed my parents a lot while I was studying. These poems came in handy whenever I missed home since they cheered me up whenever I was feeling low. They remind me of my parents’ care and their affection for me. This was the driving force that drove me through my school life despite the challenges I faced. The poets are fond of their homes and family. They all cherish the moments they spent in their homes with their families. They describe home as a place that brings out happiness in them. The poems reveal that everyone learn the things they know from their homes. The homes provide comfort at all times for them.

Home, Sweet Home, claims that there is no place like home. The poem states that we may move from one place to another including palaces but we will never find a place similar to our homes. Warm place describes the home as warm and full happiness. The poem states that the home taught one every lesson or skills that they should learn to treasure and cherish it. “You taught me everything, And everything you’ve given me, I’ll always keep it inside,”. The poet further describes home as place where they sought comfort from. “You will always be the comforter in my life for all times.”

Some poets describe the importance and show appreciation to their parents. The poem “mother” displays the sacrifices of a mother as shown by “M is million of things my mother does for me,”. the poet further describes their mother as patient and always ready to listen to their grievances. The poem further shows regret and remorse the poet has whenever they make their mother unhappy. Nicole O’Neil’s, a family is like a circle, poem describes family as an unending relationship. The poem is full of similes that the poet has used simile to describe the bond between families. The poet has used a circle to describe the ever-present connection among members of a family. The poem continues and describes the undying love found with a family. The poet concludes by pointing out that family defines what a person is. “But even if this happens, your family will always be. They help define just who you are and will be a part of you eternally.”

The poems have majored on family and some have described the importance and roles played by each member of the family. Shayla Randolph’s, I Love You All, My Family, describes each member plays a crucial role in their life. The father provides emotional support whenever they are scared by scary dreams and thunder. The mother too comforts her when she is sad and teary. The poem describes the brother a generous and willing to sacrifice everything for the persona in the line “Ate candy that he should have shared?”. The persona set out the family as the strength and love she needs during tough times. “In times of trouble, times of need, I feel such strength surrounding me, without whose love I can't succeed. I love you all, my family.”

An ocean of memories by Kimberly Briones metaphorically describes the family as an ocean. The father is the hurricane because of his violent nature while the mother is the sunshine after the storms since she calms and comforts everyone. The persona’s brother is the sand since he is the victim of their father’s assault and violence. The other two brothers are portrayed as stingrays because they are dangerous and vicious. The persona feels abandoned and alone since they describe themselves as an old ship at the bottom families. The poem majors on the theme of domestic violence and its effect. The father’s violent behavior and physical assault are what contributes to domestic violence. The threatening behavior has negatively affected the children since the two brothers have followed the footsteps of their father and are always ready to fight. The persona also feels distant from the family because of the violence around her. This poem mirrors the current issues taking place in today’s society.

Antony Smith’s, the power of family, depicts family as heaven sent and love is the bond that hold its together. The poem further illustrates that family should share everything together from pain to wealth. Smith points out that family should not point fingers but instead help each other out of any trouble. Eating pork ribs with my husband depicts a wife who is worried about her husband’s diet. She expected to have a candlelit meal eating some French meal with tiny vegetables with her husband. However, the husband is eating pork ribs which is not good for his health. The use of a simile to describes the husbands eating habits as illustrated “you are like the Komodo Dragon, who eats its weight in a single meal.” The persona also believes letting her husband eat each rib without complaining is love.

The poem “Home” by Edgar Albert Guest states that home is not a place that can be bought by gold. He also adds that living in a house will not make it a home. He states that home is made up of children that you would not part away with them because they have grown into your heart. “Within the walls there’s got t’ be some babies born, and then. Right there ye’ve got t’ bring ‘em up t’ women good, an’ men; And gradjerly, as time goes on, ye find ye wouldn’t part With anything they ever used—they’ve grown into yer heart:”

In the poem “HOME” by Robert Friend describes a home as a peaceful day and evening when the wind is quiet and birds have perched on branch. The vivid description of the environment around home creates a pleasant imagery in the reader’s mind. My parents, Stephen Spender, depicts a persona who was warned against the street children by their parents. The use of simile to describe the hurtful words the street children uttered at the persona. The children harassed and bullied the persona. The persona however was ready to forgive them but they were not remorseful about their actions. “I longed to forgive them but they never smiled.”

Love by Tinga Chang, describes how she is keeping a secret from her mother. She states “. My mother does not know I am lying with a man who is darker than me”. This leaves the readers in suspense why she does not want to let her mother know that she is with a man darker than her. The poem leaves one with a question whether the persona’s mother is racist that the persona would not want to reveal the man she is with to her.

The mother to son poem by Langston Hughes, depicts a mother advising her son about life. She tells her son that life for her has not been clear, it has been full of hardships and obstacles. However, despite the challenges she has courageously caried on and faced her problems head on. She advises her son to never give up and look back when things get harder “Don’t you fall now-For I’se still goin’, honey, I’se still climbin’, And life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.”

The next poem starts with a rhetoric question that makes one to think deeply about the significance of a family. “Have u ever thought actually What it would be like, without a family.” The poet states that one gets to experience the best of fun in a family. The poet metaphorically compares family to an elegant necklace since, the bonds may appear broken but it is still one. The poem further states that the family brings joy to one when they are feeling low. Family gives one the necessary support either physical or emotionally and family will always welcome you back whenever you go back to them.

Glaedr the poet, in his work, Family Come Together, depicts family as joint unit that will always be present in all situations, good or bad. This shows the unity that a family and their supporting nature of their own members. The poet concludes by stating that families are everlasting. “Because families are forever.” A family by Rachel Michael, speaks about the importance of family. She states that you receive a warm welcome and words of kindness and comfort. She describes a family as a little happy units evidenced by old photographs. “A perfect little unit So happy all-in place Old photographs Show each loving face.”

These poems are majorly family and home themed. They describe the importance of family in our homes. Some poems however, have focused on the negative aspects in a family such as violence and unhealthy diets. The poets have used the poems to describe the physical and psychological agony families face because of violence within a family. Some poems have also focused on social issues such as racial intolerance. Nevertheless, most poems have shown appreciation to the members of the family for their love and support for each other. The poems have also pointed out the significant roles each member of the family plays in order to ensure peace and harmony.

The poems have utilized several styles of speech such as similes. Similes have been used to likened the description of various entities with other entities in order to create an imagery in the reader’s minds. Vivid description has also been crucial in the delivery of the message since it provides a detailed description of the environment in the poem. Hyperbole and exaggeration have also been widely used to show emphasis on the key topics in the poems and creates images that are easier to understand. The poets have also utilized symbolism in their poems to define the characters in the poems and evoke something beyond the literal meaning.

**Reference**

*I Love You All, My Family, Loving Poem about Family*. (2021). Family Friend Poems. Retrieved November 16, 2021, from https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/i-love-you-all-my-family