## Response essay

The Lost Phoebe is a famous short story written by Theodore Dreiser. The story tells about the quest of an old farmer in delusion who was searching for his late wife, Phoebe, through which the author praises the pure and sincere love between the peasant couple.

This story gives great attention to detail. Many colors and physical conditions are offered in the descriptions of the people, places and things, which make the description far too picturesque and very illustrative. In addition, the language of the dialogues is highly colloquial: a lot of spoken words and expressions like “ain’t”, “an’” are used to make the speech more live and natural. What’s more, through the third person omniscient point of view, the author intertwines the reality with imagination, making the story more vivid and moving.

During the depression years, when the story was written, many people, especially young people, left the countryside and moved to the cities to search for work. They “gave little thought to how it might be with their parents”, and this phenomenon is still common nowadays. In my perspective, we should pay more attention to the mental health of the elderly and spend more time with them.