

Student's Name

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### **Romanticism, Realism/Naturalism and Twentieth Century/Contemporary Literature**

Lord Byron and Walt Whitman are two great authors of our times. Lord Byron focuses on romanticism which is an aesthetic in literary criticism while Walt Whitman focuses on realism and naturalism where realism describes the situations as they may occur in the actual sense, considers emotions, and supernatural things while naturalism focus on the inability of human beings to resist certain forces such as economic, biological and social that show their behavior and fate. The purpose of this essay is to discuss the theme of love found in *Vigil strange I kept on the field one night* by Walt Whitman and *When we two parted* by Lord Byron.

In the first piece of Lord Byron, *When we two parted*, the first paragraph talks about the theme of love. The author is heartbroken since he has parted with his lover (Byron 5). However, after several years, he has managed to gain the strength to overcome the heartbreak and sorrow therein. Secondly, the close relationship between the author and the lover who give each other their hearts show that love exists. Thirdly, love is evident where the author tries to forget what he felt for his lover and where he tries to ignore his feelings (Byron 25). Here, he has faith that he will meet her soon, but he does not know how he will react since he still loves her. Fourthly, love is evident by the fact that the author went to nature as a companion as it helped him forget his sorrow. To Byron, nature complemented emotions of human beings and acted as a companion to humanity. When Byron broke up with his love, nature helped him forget her. Here, Byron loved nature as a companion as it helped him overcome his heartbreak.

In the second piece of Walt Whitman, *Vigil strange I kept on the field one night*, the theme of love is evident in paragraph 15 where the son of the author had been killed in the war (Whitman 533). The author loved his son so much as he was his companion in everything. Secondly, in the fifth paragraph, the author gained courage and went to battle to avenge his son's death. Here, he loved his son so much and wanted their enemies to pay for the death of his son. Thirdly, due to the love that he had for his son, the author had faith that he would win the evenly contested battle (Whitman 534). Fourthly, after returning from battle, the author came back to where his son was lying dead and folded his son in a blanket by tucking his feet well under the blanket. Finally, the author was able to lay his son in his grave. Here, love is evident by the fact that the author did not want his son to experience the cold night despite the fact that he was dead (Whitman 539). So he decided to wrap him in his blanket tightly and tuck his feet under his blanket and bury him in his grave rolled up in the blanket.

In conclusion, both Lord Byron and Walt Whitman have used the theme of love in their poems. In Lord Byron's poem, love is evident where Byron departs from his lover and feels sorrow. He tries to deceive his heart and spirit to forget her but all in vain. In Walt Whitman's poem, on the other hand, love is evident where Whitman tucks his son in a blanket and buries him covered in the blanket after he was killed in battle. Here, burying him covered in the blanket is a show of love since he does not want his son to feel cold despite being dead.

Works Cited

Byron, George Gordon Byron Baron. *When we two parted*. T. Savage, Pandora Press, (1962): 5-30. [Accessed 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017].

Whitman, Walt. "Vigil Strange I Kept on the Field One Night." *Passage to India,* "Prayer of Columbus," and "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," in *Walt Whitman: Complete Poetry and Collected Prose*, ed. Justin Kaplan (New York: Library of America, 1982) 438 (1965): 531-540. [Accessed 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017].

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