
Mirror

- by Sylvia Plath

This is a poem written in the first person, i.e., a mirror is giving an account of its nature and experiences. Personification is used throughout. In first part, the poetess is describing her as a real mirror while in the second part, she describes her as a lake with a reflecting surface.

Lines

1. A mirror reflects/shows what it sees. It has no opinions. It is very objective and accurate.
 2. It swallows (accepts) everything it sees.
 3. The mirror doesn't not modify what it sees.
 4. Because of its utter/complete honesty, the image in the mirror may hurt some people.
 5. A mirror reflects all four directions, and is completely fair and impartial (like God)
 6. When there is no one in front of the mirror and it merely reflects the pink, vacant wall.
 7. The reflection of the wall is now the heart of the mirror.
 8. The lake also acts like a mirror.
 9. A woman comes to check her true appearance. She is dissatisfied with what she see.
 10. People may lie to her and she may appear younger (different) in the softer lights of the candles or the moon.
 11. The lake (mirror) tells no lies.
 12. This honesty upset her and she cries, wringing her hands in helplessness
 13. The reflection in the lake is important to her as she been checking it for many years.
 14. It is part of her daily routine to check her appearance to her age. Gone is the youthful face.
 15. The face of the old woman is reflected off the lake now. The truth is hard to bear.
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