

Two 's Company

“ Two's Company ” is a humorous dramatic narrative poem that is written by the American poet, Raymond Wilson.

Set in the backdrop of a haunted house the poem presents how the protagonist, 'he' takes no heed to the words of advice of 'they' and dares to spend the night in that haunted house and challenges to prove 'they' that there are no such things as ghosts to those who are afraid of such supernatural phenomenon.

The protagonist presents himself as brave daring and not believing 'tittle tattle' of silly ghost stories. He certainly tries to impress others and win their respect by posing as a daring man with no regressive superstitions. However as the poem develops the poet shows his true colours and how the protagonist is truly terrified of ghosts.

The poem is subtitled as a sad story of a man who did not believe in ghosts and it foreshadows that there is going to be a sad tragic outcome to the protagonist's foolish daring. He poses as a man who does not believe in ghosts but the truth dawns as we read on the poem and the poet's comments in parenthesis/ brackets show how he gets afraid and reacts to all the ghostly signs of chains rattling , screaming, and the striking of the clock even when there is no clock.

An ironic contrast is built between his appearance as a bold brave man and his reality as a man with a weak mind as the poet in his asides or side comments tells us of the protagonist's true conduct. The poet sets an eerie atmosphere with the image of a hunchback moon(metaphor) and the auditory image of an owl screeching to suit the events to unravel.

The poem develops in short sentences to create and mount suspense and gradually gives the various ominous signs of the presence of a ghost in the place.

The protagonist hides ironically in the cupboard feeling it is safe but the poem reaches the climax as the man finds the ghost talking to him in a soft breathy but chillingly scary voice that takes living daylight off of him.

The poem creates humour through irony and the witty sarcastic observations by the poet given in parenthesis and the unexpected ending.

The poem reveals how showing off and trying to gain respect by posing as some one you are not would lead to tragedy. it brings out the disastrous effects of showing off and being overestimating and overconfident of oneself as well.

The title ironically refers to the idiom 'two's company ;three's crowd' to suggest how two persons would be able to enjoy a relationship to the maximum, but here 'companionship' is to bring terror to the man and the ghost certainly wishes to have no company in his abode.

Setting	A haunted house
Subject	A man's reaction to a ghost story and the consequences
Style	Dramatic narration ,third person narrative rhyming couplet
Tone	Sarcastic , ironic
Techniques	<p>Irony - the title suggests togetherness but the poem gives no such idea The man thinks the cupboard is the best place to hid ,but it is the unsafest place</p> <p>Foreshadowing- the ominous signs suggest the arrival of the ghost</p> <p>Contrast- the man is brave to the outside but a coward when all alone</p> <p>Parenthesis - reveals poet's comments on protagonist's behaviour</p> <p>Sarcasm -</p> <p>Imagery</p>
Intention	To show how a man suffers as a result of pretentiously posing as what he is not and showing off to get others' esteem and recognition
Theme	Dangers of boastfulness , showing off and overestimation of one self
Sub-theme	How trouble follows pretense and hypocrisy

Fear

“Fear” by Gabriela Mistral is a monologue in first person narration that brings out the worries and anxieties as well as hopes of a mother about her growing up daughter.

We see that the poem carries the typical thoughts of a rural mother not exposed to the modern day sophistications and ambitions and not given to social pressures to make her children reach the top pinnacles of the society.

In the poem the mother uses repetition and metaphors in order to convey her anxieties about losing her daughter as she grows with age. It seems that she wants to keep her daughter with her forever, never letting her walk away from her eyesight. She is from a humble home and she does not want to see change affecting her relationship with the daughter (although changes may creep in gradually). Time may pass but she expects her relationship with her daughter to remain the same and she looks at her daughter as a small child and refuses to see that one day she would fall in love with another and would leave the mother to start her own family.

In the poem she constantly refer to, 'them' and claims that 'they' had a negative influence upon her girl to turn her in to a swallow, princess and queen which would take the girl away from her protective and loving grasp. The metaphor of seeing her little girl as a swallow is suggestive of her fear that one day the daughter would fly off away from the mother's reach to have her own life.

She says she does want her girl to be turned in to a princess which is symbolic of the girl reaching beautiful teenage so that no Prince Charming would come riding to snatch her away from the mother.

The speaker refuses to have her daughter turned in to a queen so then the daughter would be inaccessible amidst a lot of responsibilities. The queen represents the adulthood of the daughter and we see that the mother rather selfishly expects her daughter to remain with her forever with no change in her life.

The mother expects the daughter to be with her so that she could comb her hair, sleep by her side and rock her during nighttime to sleep. It movingly shows how a mother's love is so strong so as to keep the daughter with her besides her forever feeling that it is only she who could defend and protect her from the evil influence of the world and help her remain innocent forever.

The speaker wants her little daughter to remain with her living a humble and modest life with no big ambitions, enjoying the straw bed and the playing on the meadows, refusing the nest in the eaves, the tiny golden slippers and the throne.

The mother's views are humble and simple and it contradicts from today's views of mothers wanting their children to reach higher and higher in the most ambitious manner so that the children would fly away to greener pastures and would not return to their parents and the parents would die alone neglected.

The poem carries repetition that shows the mother's strong yearning to keep the daughter by her side. She worries and fears for the future of the daughter and feels that for her daughter the only secure place in the world is by her side. She strongly insists that change would not occur in her daughter's life.

It is not very clear what truly drives her to think in this manner ; whether it is a sense of concern to protect her against all evil or a possessive greed to keep the child with her as a defense against loneliness that comes with aging, or both.

setting	A rural household of the mother
subject	A mother's fear of losing her daughter and the wish to have the daughter by her side
Style	Free verse, monologue first person narration
Tone	Anxious and worried
techniques	Repetition Metaphors little girl= swallow, princess, queen Visual imagery of humble life – straw bed and luxury – golden slippers, throne Rhetoric question Contrast – images of humility vs images of grandeur and power
intention	To show how a mother expects her relationship with her children to remain unchanged forever
theme	The strength of a mother's gentle and protective love
Sub theme	Inevitability of change in lives Mother's love as a possessive greed