



## ANALYSIS OF THE POEM "CROSSING THE ATLANTIC" WITH THE THEORY FEMINIST CRITICISM IN WILDERNESS

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### Abstract

In order to give a broad understanding of the poem "Crossing the Atlantic" the author has chosen a theory Feminist Criticism in Wilderness by Elaine Showalter. In the Introductory part it focuses on the author's introduction and a short note on the theory. Then the entire paper deals with the elements which are found in the poem. This paper is a comparison with the poem crossing the Atlantic by Anne sexton compared with the theory feminist criticism in the wilderness by Elaine Showalter in order to understand the poem in a broad view.

**Keywords:** Wilderness, Criticism, Coherent, Struggles.

### INTRODUCTION

Annie grey was born in Newton in 1928. Then she attended Garland Junior College for one year and married Alfred Mullar Sexton – II. At the age of 19 she enrolled in a Modeling course at the Hart agency. In 1953 she gave birth to a daughter and she was diagnosed with Postpartum depression suffered her first mental breakdown and was admitted to Westwood lodge a neuropsychiatric hospital. In 1955 she gave the birth of her second daughter attempted suicide she was encouraged by her doctor to pursue and interest in writing poetry that she had developed in high school and in the fall of 1957, she enrolled in a poetry workshop. In 1974 at the age of 46 she won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry. In 1967 for live or die she lost a battle with mental illness and committed suicide.

Wilderness means the structure of the essay or poem is not in a coherent order. In this poem it can be clearly observed the aspects of the wilderness as: the two poles mentioned in this theory, the difficulties of women as seen in this

poem and the theory, the aspect of Gynocritics, the four aspects: biological, linguistic, psychoanalytical, cultural, and it also focuses on Women's Language, Women's Psyche, Women's Culture.

### WILDERNESS

Elaine Showalter is an attempt to study the fields of literary criticism wildness means feminist critics is not capable enough to produce coherent speculations. In this poem "Crossing the Atlantic" it is **not in a coherent order** as the **first paragraph has 14 lines** the **second paragraph has 13 lines** and the **third paragraph has 17 lines** and the **last paragraph has 10 lines**. There are no **Rhyming words** used in this poem as it is not in an order of a poem. This shows that it is not in a coherent order and it is referred to as a wilderness.

### THE TWO POLES MENTIONED IN THIS THEORY

In this poem "Crossing the Atlantic" - **One concentrate** on the **errors of the past** as it denotes that those who go to the Atlantic Ocean has not return and they don't even know where they are this

tells about the past in this poem. The **other** focuses on the **beauty of imagination** at this poem States beauty of Atlantic Ocean and the pure water in the Atlantic Ocean.

Elaine Showalter also points about that woman had been locked out and in some other they had been locked in a not allowed to participate in some aspects of social interaction and forced to participate in some other they fail to understand the need to think beyond their own belief. While taking this poem **“Crossing the Atlantic” - Anne Sexton** shows the **difficulties of women faced** in their life as **first Paragraph tells about the dresses they were wearing** and the **second paragraph shows the darkness that is there they are not love to write and their always locked in** and the **third paragraph shows the voyages the importance of women** and **The Fourth paragraph shows the importance of virginity as it is very important and it is compared with water**. This poem says the stages that the women face in her life.

**GYNOCRITICS:** This part focuses on the

- ✓ History,
- ✓ Style,
- ✓ Theme and
- ✓ Structure of writing by women.

In this poem **“Crossing the Atlantic” –**

**History** of women crossing the **various struggles in a life** is shown as the **first paragraph** denotes the dresses they are wearing and **second paragraph** the darkness that is they always be in house and they were not allowed to think beyond and they were not allowed to expose themselves the **third paragraph** tells about the atmosphere they are they were not allowed to do anything and it shows the importance of the mother's voyage and it also shows a bridal veil as it conveys that the women at a particular age goes to the other house and the **last paragraph** tells about the water the way the water moves the life has to move on we should not stop in-between. These are the stages of women and the difficulties that face in life.

**EXAMPLE:**

Wrapped in robe  
not like Caesar but like liver with  
**bacon** } **Dress**

the way one would dig into a planet  
and forget the word light. } **Darkness**

those harbor smells like the  
innards of animals!  
I have read each page of her  
mother's voyage. } **Atmosphere  
and  
Mothers  
Voyage**

She will run East, knot by knot, over  
an old bloodstream, stripping it  
clear, } **Water**

**Style** of the poem the “Crossing the Atlantic” is it is not in the coherent order first as the first paragraph has 15 lines the second paragraph has 13 lines the third paragraph 17 lines and the last paragraph has 10 lines and the poem is not in a order compared to the other poems. This poem does not have any Rhyming words or rhyming Scheme.

**Example:**

We sail out of season into on  
oyster-gray wind, over a terrible  
hardness. Where Dickens  
crossed with mal de mer } **Not in a coherent  
order, No  
Rhyming words,  
Rhyming Scheme**

**Theme** of this poem “Crossing the Atlantic” by Anne Sexton deals with “In spite of many dangers in life we have to move on”. There may be many difficulties in life we have to be on rather than worrying about it.

**Structure** of this poem “Crossing the Atlantic” is not in a coherent order i.e., Wilderness.

**FOUR ASPECTS**

The four aspects applied in the poem “Crossing the Atlantic” by Anne Sexton. The aspects are **biological, linguistic, psychoanalytical, cultural**.

**Biological aspect** focuses on the difficulties faced in her life.

**Linguistic aspect** is the language used is quite understandable and it is used in simple words.

**Psychoanalytic aspect** focuses on the unconscious mind to discover the causes of their mental struggle.

**Cultural aspect** in this poem cultural aspect is shown in the first paragraph as they use dress code bacon (light cloth).

#### **WOMEN'S LANGUAGE**

In this poem "Crossing the Atlantic" the language used is very simple and the intonation of the poem is not good. There is no Rhyming Word or Rhyming Scheme in this poem. This shows that women have started writing poems in this period, and it shows only the beauty of Atlantic Ocean compared to the struggle of Women. At the starting age women started to express the difficulties faced by themselves rather than an out-box thinking. At least these way women were allowed to express their view since they were not allowed to move out of house, they gave the central image as the house and the difficulties faced by them.

#### **WOMEN'S PSYCHE**

In this poem "Crossing the Atlantic" we can see the emotional dimensions are identified in this poem as it shows the difficulties of women in various stages especially of wilderness.

#### **WOMEN'S CULTURE**

In this poem "Crossing the Atlantic" is shown in the first paragraph as the dress code which talks about the culture of women at that stage and it also represents the expressions and feelings of women this shows the culture that they follow at that period. As Anne Sexton poetry details her long battle with depression, suicidal tendencies, and intimate details from her private life.

#### **CONCLUSION**

This Poem is perfect example of Wilderness, as Anne Sexton expresses the battle with depression, emotions, feelings, suicidal tendencies and the details of private life. The theory Wilderness means that the structure of the poem is not in a coherent order. This poem "Crossing the Atlantic" by

Anne Sexton also comes to the category of Wilderness as it is not in a coherent order.

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