Plath Poetry Response  

Title: "Street Song"  

Your response/explanation of what makes the poem meaningful—refer to literary features, images, language that contribute to the poem's feeling and meaning:

- Visceral images - heart, blood, guts. "White-jacketed possessors" indicates medical stuff-in a mental institution? 1. 12 - "Greenly escaped idiot" = speaker newly released from hospital?
- 3rd Stan is has more images of pain - Christlike suffering - "flayed side" - so she sees herself as Christlike?
- 1st & 4th Stan work together - she walks free among people ignorant of her pain - But violence and horrible "song" of the little only she can hear - "alone can hear / Son's pitched scream" - not much of a "song" Tone is dispassionate but crowd do not hear it, but she seems to be hiding her pain.

Poem's Main Point (Concise sentence w/ main idea & what poem says about main idea?): As she speaker walks about freely, she hears a horrible "song" of her own psychological pain but she also seems to be continually hiding her pain from the ignorant people around her.

Title: "A Secret"  

Your response/explanation of what makes the poem meaningful—refer to literary features, images, language that contribute to the poem's feeling and meaning:

- The speaker seems aware what another holds a secret - "superior" and "police-man" image. suggest secret = power over speaker.
- Secret portrayed as wild/animals and as an illegitimate child - wild animals = danger + distorted child = unwanted, shame.
- Secret smells - ll 27-32 - speaker in dialogue with it - knows it there but doesn't know what it is.
- Hell breaks loose when the secret is revealed - "stampede" of animals, noises, but really the secret is a weak "dazed baby" stabbed in the back - once it's released, the secret loses its power.

Poem's Main Point (Concise sentence w/ main idea & what poem says about main idea?): "A Secret" portrays someone's fear of a wild, dangerous secret, but when the secret is revealed, it loses both its mystery and power to become weak and pathetic.