

Title: "Street Song" p.#: 35 # of lines: 30

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 assistants" indicates medical staff - in a mental institution? l. 12 - "greatly escaped idiot" = speaker newly released from hospital?
 3rd stanza has more images of pain - Christlike suffering - "thorned" + "fayed side" - So she sees herself as Christlike?
 1st + 4th stanzas work together - she walks free among people ignorant of her pain - But violence and horrible "song" of the title only she can hear - "alone can hear / Son's parched scream" - not much of a "song" - Tone is dismissive of the crowd for not hearing her, but she seems to be hiding her pain.

Poem's Main Point (Concise sentence w/ main idea & what poem says about main idea?): As the 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" p.#: 219 # of lines: 48

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 that another holds a secret - "superior" and "policeman" image suggest secret = power over speaker
 Secret portrayed both as wild animals and as an "illegitimate child" - wild animals = danger + bastard child = unwanted, shame
 The secret smells - ll. 29-32 - speaker in dialogue with it - knows its 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 "dumb 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.