A Wider View / The Jewellery Maker

Work, dignity and unequal opportunity

Comparative argument

Both poets make workers' inner lives visible beyond the objects or buildings they help produce. Seneviratne connects an industrial ancestor's aspiration to a descendant's present, while Parker contrasts a maker's extraordinary skill with his limited access to the luxury he creates.

Workers have imaginative lives

A Wider View - Image of aspiration ("dreams"): The ancestor's wish to see beyond his surroundings challenges the narrowness of repetitive labour.

The Jewellery Maker - Simile ("surgeon"): The maker's concentration receives the dignity of a skilled profession rather than being treated as anonymous production.

Connection: Both ask the reader to see a thinking, skilled person behind labour.

Material limits

A Wider View - Sensory detail ("dust"): Industrial work enters the body and helps explain the desire for a broader horizon.

The Jewellery Maker - Contrasting adjective ("plain"): The wife's ring makes inequality intimate: creating valuable ornaments does not mean being able to provide them at home.

Connection: Compare bodily restriction with unequal ownership; neither cancels the worker's dignity.

Looking beyond the workplace

A Wider View - Image linking generations ("echo"): The shift to a present-day first-person walk joins a descendant's attention to an ancestor's life.

The Jewellery Maker - Transformative metaphor ("butterflies"): Delicate living movement celebrates craft before the later imagined wearers expose the distance between maker and consumer.

Connection: Seneviratne expands perspective through time; Parker expands it across the economic chain from workshop to wealthy customer.

Relevant context

Use Leeds's industrial setting to explain restricted working conditions in A Wider View. In The Jewellery Maker, ground claims about inequality in the household/customer contrast; do not invent a nationality, wage or employer.

Plan your argument

Open with the comparative thesis and qualify the main difference.

Paragraph 1: Workers have imaginative lives. Both ask the reader to see a thinking, skilled person behind labour.

Paragraph 2: Material limits. Compare bodily restriction with unequal ownership; neither cancels the worker's dignity.

Paragraph 3: Looking beyond the workplace. Seneviratne expands perspective through time; Parker expands it across the economic chain from workshop to wealthy customer.

Conclude by explaining how the endings change your understanding of the shared theme.

Try a question

Compare how poets present work, dignity and unequal opportunity in 'A Wider View' and in one other poem from your anthology.

Suggested comparison: The Jewellery Maker. You may choose a different poem from your prescribed cluster.

Check your understanding

How do the poets dignify labour?

What is the difference between making beauty and owning it?

How does each poem widen the reader's view of a worker?

Original critical notes by Exam Stash. Use your own edition or anthology alongside these notes.