

*SUGGESTED ESSAY TITLES*  
*BIRTHDAY LETTERS BY TED HUGHES AND ARIEL BY SYLVIA PLATH*

1. How successfully does Hughes communicate his changing emotions towards Plath and their relationship through Birthday Letters?
2. Comment on and analyse Hughes's and Plath's differing attitudes towards relationships as revealed in the anthologies Birthday Letters and Ariel.
3. How does Plath use death like and dark imagery in her poetry to reveal her attitudes towards relationships?
4. Examine how Plath expresses her feelings of depression through her use of imagery in Ariel.
5. It is often suggested that much of Sylvia Plath's anthology Ariel includes references to her father and husband and Ted Hughes wrote Birthday Letters about his relationship with Plath. Compare and contrast the ways in which Plath and Hughes convey their feelings and emotions.
6. Discuss the notion that Plath's poetry suggests only anger and bitterness whereas Hughes's reveals remorse and regret as well.
7. Both Hughes and Plath use gruesome imagery to convey their feelings about relationships but Hughes feels guilt and regret as well as bitterness whereas Plath feels only anger. Discuss how this is revealed in the two anthologies.
8. How successfully does Ted Hughes use the violent imagery and tone apparent in Plath's Ariel to reveal his own feelings of anger and regret in Birthday Letters?