

English Mock

1. 'So the chase takes up ones life, that's all.'

Discuss ways in which Browning portrays love in 'Love in a Life' and 'Life in a Love'.

Both poems can be related back to Elizabeth Barrett Browning, as many of Robert Browning's poetry can be. The love story between the two accomplished poets was very difficult as her father did not approve of the union and they were forced to elope and marry in secret. The first lines of *Life in a Love*, which is '*Escape me? / Never*', proves the course of his love for her as he is determined not to lose her no matter the complications that may have arisen.

The rhyme scheme within *Life in a Love* is fragmented and disjointed, which could imply that their lives are the same way, disorganized and unconnected. This could show the speaker's love and devotion to the character he is speaking of as he is determined to prove to her that he is worthy of her love. *Love in a Life*, on the other hand, is more relaxed and calming, with a repetitive and continuous feel to it. This could imply that the poet's life is monotonous as every day he is searching through this 'house' to find his love. However, the 'house' mentioned in the poem does not have to stand literally as it could involve a 'house' in the poet's mind where he has trapped that which he loves and is attempting to reach for to profess his feelings.

The language in both poems is very metaphorical, with *Love in a Life* centering around the 'house' of the poet's mind, and *Life in a Love* has a metaphor in the very title. Alliteration in *Life in a Love* shows the poet's fear and distress at the possibility of not being with his love. '*Scarce succeed*' shows his worry that they will not be able to 'succeed' in their quest for love and that she will leave before it is all over. '*Dust and dark*' are also able to show this by adding a sense of underlying concern to the poem. *Love in a Life*, on the other hand, shows much of its hope and fear through the use of repetition rather than alliteration. '*Room*' is repeated in the first line to show the yearning and suffering of the speaker in their inability to find the object of their desire, and this also shows the length of time he has been searching for her. Also, '*heart*' is repeated to create the effect of a heart beating faster as he comes closer to finding her, only to have it slow again when '*she goes out as [he] enters*'.

Also, both poems use enjambment as the poet is expressing his love to his love. In *Life in a Love*, enjambment is used to show the '*old hope*' and the '*new one*' and this implies that, while he was thoroughly enamored with her, he is able to understand that his '*old*' way of professing his love was not working and he is hoping that his '*new*' one would. In *Love in a Life*, however, after, '*I hunt the house through*', enjambment gives an impression of a slight pause in his perusal. This can also be shown in the animalistic nature of the '*hunt*' rather than just a simple search.