Unseen Poetry

Read the example Intro and comparison paragraph:

Identify comparisons

Language/structure

Effect on the reader

Development of analysis

Focus on individual words

Both poets write about their parents and imply that they are no longer alive. Coat uses pathetic fallacy to create and atmosphere which is similar to The Armada although it also uses the senses too. Both poems are reflective and look back on the past.

Coat begins “When it was bitter” which suggests the weather was very bad but that the narrator feels safe as he was “against her; just behind her” showing us that he is protected from this weather from his mother. “Bitter” has connotations of negativity but it sounds like a lovely memory as he feels cocooned from the weather by his maternal and loving mother. This atmosphere is a contrast to the weather here and the poet may have done this to show how lovely the young child’s relationship was with his mum. However, this is in contrast to the presentation of the mother in “The Armada” as she is “impatient to be going” suggesting that spending time with her son is not as important as something else that she needs or wants to be. It leaves the reader feeling as if the child is not as safe, as if the child’s desire to stay and play and feel protected from the outside world is not as important as in “Coat”. Here the mother’s reactions to the children are very different. Coat; protective, whereas The Armada is distant.

What grade would you give this and why?