

*Close Reading and Comparison of:*

*“Frost at Midnight” and “To a Little Invisible Being”*

Taylor Coleridge's “Frost at Midnight” and Anna Barbauld's “To a Little Invisible Being Who Is Expected to Become Visible” are two poems written from a parent's perspective hoping for the best for their children. The poems describe how wonderful and beautiful the world is. Both parents want their children to grow up happy, to love nature, and to have everything. The parents feel they are obligated to nurture their children and to provide the best for them. In lines 54-64 of “Frost at Midnight,” Coleridge describes the beauty of the landscape of their home, and in lines 65-74, he goes on about how envious he is that his son is growing up in nature. In comparison, lines 9-12 and 31-32 of “To a Little Invisible Being” describes nature in all its glory. Both parents see nature as divine and believe that growing up in nature is one of the most wonderful things in life. Informal, affectionate, and hopeful language is used in both poems. While “Frost at Midnight” is a slower and more calm reading, “To a Little Invisible Being” seems to be a more excited speaker. In line 7 of “To a Little Invisible Being” and in line 50 of “Frost at Midnight,” the words “thou” and “thy” are examples of the informal language used in both poems. The entire length of “To a Little Invisible Being” seems to be hopeful and affectionate while “Frost at Midnight” describes the scene in the first stanza, then the past in the second stanza, and finally his hopes for the child in the third stanza.