

Comparing and contrasting poems *The Trees* and *The Trees are Down*

The poems *The Trees* by Philip Larkin and *The Trees are Down* by Charlotte Mew are works that share a number of similarities and differences. While the seemingly positive and negative approaches to the subject are conflicting, there is more value to be found by comparing and contrasting the two pieces on a deeper level. In *The Trees*, Larkin uses metaphor and in *The Trees are Down*, Mew uses tone and allusion, but both poets utilize symbolism, format, meter and repetition to evoke contrasting messages; Larkin's being that the cycle of life is set and cannot be changed while Mew's emphasizes the message that the destruction of nature can be prevented.

In the poem *The Trees*, Larkin uses metaphor to help express a deeper meaning behind the use of trees as his subject. He metaphorically uses the trees in order to represent people and the cycle of life. The process of growing up, who you are, the reputation you create for yourself and the lasting memory of it when one reaches death. Larkin uses the trees as a metaphor for people because they too have a reputation though its