

Oct. 23, 2017

Eng 11 HON
Ms. Shin

Ikea or Inferno?

“Dante’s Ikea”, a poem written by author Asa Boxer, describes a trip to Ikea with a little more detail than [...] furniture shopping. It is a parody of Dante Alighieri’s *Inferno*, a poem documenting a poet named Dante and his sneak peak at the terrors of Hell. In a manner similar to Dante’s *Inferno*, “Dante’s Ikea” makes the furniture giant much darker than it really is. The sheer despair of Ikea in the poem’s descriptions makes me think the poem was inspired by the warning in the outer rings of hell: “Abandon [all] hope, all [ye] who enter here.” The constant derogatory attitude to the sections, layers, and products, show negative, pessimistic thinking at the “pillows [that] [brought] no comfort / [The] bathmats [were] all wrong / [The] candles [smelled] like poison.” Dante’s *Ikea* also draws attention to the children left in the play area of Ikea. They cry and wail, waiting for their parents because “[their] parents have lied to them [again] about [the] time / eternity [has] passed [them] by!” meaning that they feel abandoned and betrayed. After the speaker produces some derisive remarks about the whereabouts of said missing parents, the children “[turned] their red-eyed demon faces” at him. It’s akin to the line in Dante’s *Inferno* explaining the conditions of the people stuck in limbo, “[babbling] tongues, terrible palaver, / words [of] grief, inflections [of deep] anger.” The souls are stuck in an inescapable cage of suffering, pain, and rage, enough to make Dante “[break] down into tears.” The darker, edgy tone of Ikea being turned into something more sinister, making it comparable to Hell [...] makes “Dante’s Ikea” a parody of Dante’s *Inferno*.

Blue font - Ms. Shin's editing

[...] - Items taken out

(+) Done well	(-) Could work on..
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evidence of analysis- A focus is established in the beginning- Good choice of quotes which are used to great effect- Mechanics of quote integration is strong	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Quotes not cited- Ending is rather weak- Could establish a stronger connection between tormented souls in hell and anguished children trapped in playpen.

Scoring: 5+/6

Not bad for a first synthesis!