

What picture of family life is depicted in the poem “Lullaby”?

Generated: Jan 26, 2026

What picture of family life is depicted in the poem “Lullaby”? What does it criticize?

In Alfred Tennyson's (1809-92) poem “Lullaby” (1847), we see a tender, peaceful picture of family life. The poem shows the love and care of a mother and father for their child. It is a moment of quiet and calm, where the parents are watching over their little one as he or she sleeps. The setting is peaceful, with gentle wind and the soft light of the moon.

The poem paints a picture of a happy family. The mother comforts the child by singing a lullaby. The father is also mentioned. He says he will come soon to the baby. The image of “silver sails” and the “silver moon” adds to the sense of calm. There is no rush, no worry—only the safety and warmth of home. The parents' love and protection are clear.

However, the poem also criticizes the idea of life being too busy. The mention of “wind of the western sea” and “dying moon” suggests that there is a world outside full of changes and challenges. In contrast, the family life in the poem is peaceful and still, reminding us of the quiet moments that are often forgotten in the rush of life.

In conclusion, Tennyson's poem shows a loving family. It gives us a beautiful and quiet moment, but also hints that the busy outside world can sometimes be hard to deal with. The poem reminds us of the importance of family and peace.