

PV Log: (circle one) **Poem** / **Movie** / **Picture** / **Lyric**Date 10/30/13Title "When I was One-and-Twenty"Author / Director / A.E. Housman

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

Found on Schmoop.com while searching for poems

Content / CD / Summary / Precis (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc?)

This song describes a 21 year old receiving advice from a wise old man to not get too caught up in love because it might not last. He is told that he may give money away, but he should never give his heart away. He doesn't listen, but it turns out the advice he got was pretty good because now he's 22 and has learned firsthand that what the old man said was true.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

The theme of this poem is obviously love, but while most poems talk about how great love is and how they wish to fall in love, this poem warns about falling in love. It warns that love can be dangerous. It is not saying that love is bad, rather it is saying to be careful because sometimes love blinds us to what is really going on. Some people use love in the wrong way or interpret the meaning of love incorrectly which is what this poem warns of. This poem also has a respect your elders type of feeling to it. It shows how a naive 21 year old didn't listen to a wise old man and ended up learning the lesson the hard way. Now he is 22, and he has matured into understanding.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

This poem is split up into 2 main stanzas. The first one is the 21 year old and his lesson from the wise old man, while in the second one, the 21 year old has grown up into a 22 year old and he reflects on the lessons the old man taught him and finally recognizes them as the truth. The age of the narrator is a symbol. It does not necessarily mean he is actually 21 years old going on 22, but it is symbolism for moving from child to adult. From being naive to mature.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

This is an interesting poem for many reasons. Poetry is about love. Love is this magical, really undefined term about the feeling we get when we like someone a lot, but it does not stop there. What is interesting is that while quite a bit of poetry is about how great love is, this poem is about how we should avoid love. The author must've had a bad breakup or heartbreak just before writing this. He describes how easy it is to be used, and how we can't let ourselves be blinded by the strong emotion of love.

over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)

When I was One-and-Twenty

When I was one-and-twenty
I heard a wise man say,
“Give crowns and pounds and guineas
But not your heart away;
Give pearls away and rubies
But keep your fancy free.”
But I was one-and-twenty,
No use to talk to me.

When I was one-and-twenty
I heard him say again,
“The heart out of the bosom
Was never given in vain;
'Tis paid with sighs a plenty
And sold for endless rue.”
And I am two-and-twenty,
And oh, 'tis true, 'tis true.