

PV Log: (circle one) **Poem** / **Movie** / **Picture** / **Lyric**Date 12/20/13Title "Not Waving but Drowning"Author / Director / Stevie Smith

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

Given to me by Mr. Shakely; class assignment.

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

This poem tells of a dying man crying for help. He moans for sympathy, but nobody hears his call or stops to try to help. "It must have been too cold for him his heart gave way" means that he lived in a cold world with no caring or sympathy evident. Nobody bothered to help out a poor dying man. The narrator describes how he was too far out, possibly meaning he was too far out to help the man. He goes on to say he "was much too far all my life."

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

This poem is about God in the long run. The man on the side of the road represents a dying man in need. He is soon to be with God, yet nobody bothers to help him out. He begs and moans but people just "mind their own business." In reality, God's will is our business, and God would've wanted everyone to help out that man, not just pass by. The theme of this poem is how God is in everyone and everyone deserves to be saved as well as how making excuses doesn't help anything.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

This poem is divided into three stanzas. The first describes the dead man moaning, the second one describes the narrator's feeling toward the man, and the third one describes the narrator feeling the same emotions as the dying man. Both of these main characters symbolize every one of us. We all at some point in our lives feel like one of these characters, and the poem encourages us to step in and do something rather than wait for someone else to do it for us.

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. It reminds me of the parable of the good Samaritan, only nobody ended up stopping to help. Everyone just passed by, and one man thought about helping but made up an excuse. Everyone can relate to this poem because it is a poem about feeling lonely and nobody understanding pain. If someone needs compassion and receives none, a terrible feeling results. Everyone has felt this at some point in their life, so this poem is very relatable. When people can relate to each other, they unite. Unity is very poetic.

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

Not Waving But Drowning

Nobody heard him, the dead man,
But still he lay moaning:
I was much further out than you thought
And not waving but drowning.

Poor chap, he always loved larking
And now he's dead
It must have been too cold for him his heart gave way,
They said.

Oh, no no no, it was too cold always
(Still the dead one lay moaning)
I was much too far out all my life
And not waving but drowning.