

PV Log: (circle one) **Poem** / Movie / Picture / LyricDate 3/4/14Title "Barter"Author / Director / Sara Teasdale

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

Found on shmoop.com while looking for poems

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

This poem is about dealmaking with nature and with the world around us. This poem describes the beauty of nature, but it is different from "A Route of Evanescence" in the sense that it is less specific and it describes life itself as well as nature instead of only nature. The poem states that life tries to sell us loveliness and beautiful things. It gives us examples of these beautiful things, almost like an advertisement. The last stanza emphasizes that just an hour of the peace, quite, beauty, and tranquility nature has to offer is worth every bad thing that will ever happen to us in life.

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

The theme of this poem is giving and receiving. What are we willing to give of ourselves to witness the true beauty the world has to offer? This poem basically says that we are constantly bartering with Mother Nature, doing hard work and suffering just to get a glimpse of true beauty. In a world of consumerism, we are used to making deals, but have we ever realized that we are making deals with nature every day? This poem is dark in a sense that it is telling us we can never witness beauty for free, and that nature is always charging us, sending the bill later. Will we ever be able to afford to pay?

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

This poem has three stanzas. The first to state that life offers to sell us loveliness, and they are basically advertisements for the beautiful things in life. The third stanza persuades us to buy in, telling us that a short amount of time experiencing the true beauty of life is worth every hardship we have to face.

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 because it tries to place some sort of monetary value on nature and beauty. How can abstract things be sold? The poem is full of metaphors, and nature selling us loveliness is just another means by which we push forward through the adversity we face as human beings. We all go through tough times, but it is all worth it in the end. It is worth it when we witness beauty in full force, and we are filled with wonder and awe. We barter every day, but this poem makes us realize that we barter a lot more than we think we do. Life is a big trade: we put in hard work, long hours, and deal with adversity, and Mother Nature will pay us back by showing us beauty, and even the true meaning of life.

Barter

Life has loveliness to sell,
 All beautiful and splendid things,
Blue waves whitened on a cliff,
 Soaring fire that sways and sings,
And children's faces looking up
Holding wonder like a cup.

Life has loveliness to sell,
 Music like a curve of gold,
Scent of pine trees in the rain,
 Eyes that love you, arms that hold,
And for your spirit's still delight,
Holy thoughts that star the night.

Spend all you have for loveliness,
 Buy it and never count the cost;
For one white singing hour of peace
 Count many a year of strife well lost,
And for a breath of ecstasy
Give all you have been, or could be.