

PV Log: (circle one) **Poem** / **Movie** / **Picture** / **Lyric**Date 3/14/14Title "A Blessing"Author / Director / James Wright

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

Found on shmoop.com while searching for poems

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

This poem describes two people pulling over their car to the side of the road, stepping over the fence into a pasture, and encountering two beautiful Indian ponies. They feel like the ponies are welcoming them, and they bow to the men. They are happy that the men have come because they are lonely and want company. The end of the poem is abrupt and strange stating, "Suddenly I realize / That if I stepped out of my body I would break / Into blossom."

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

The theme of this poem is love, beauty, and poetic experiences. These two men encounter two beautiful ponies, and one of them muzzles into the narrators hand. This experience was poetic because it showed interaction between man and God's innocent creatures. The last line is strange and seemingly out of place, but it shows that this experience was very spiritual for the man, and he feels a connection with God as he encounters these horses.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

The horses are huge metaphors for love. This man encounters love at an unexpected part of the road (a symbol for life's journey), and he has a tremendously poetic and spiritual experience in the meantime. The poem itself is a narrative that describes the man's encounter with the horses.

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

I like this poem because it takes a narrative story that seems like it could actually happen in real life, and transforms it into a hugely metaphorical situation where God touches man. Love is poetic, and so is beauty. The horses mane is messy but beautiful, and the man sees beauty in disorder. The highway represents the man's journey through life, isolated and extending to various parts of the world. He pulls off the road for just a minute, leading him to go through one of the most poetic experiences of his life. This poem certainly carries a "Road Not Taken" type of meaning with it.

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

A Blessing

Just off the highway to Rochester, Minnesota,
Twilight bounds softly forth on the grass.
And the eyes of those two Indian ponies
Darken with kindness.
They have come gladly out of the willows
To welcome my friend and me.
We step over the barbed wire into the pasture
Where they have been grazing all day, alone.
They ripple tensely, they can hardly contain their happiness
That we have come.
They bow shyly as wet swans. They love each other.
There is no loneliness like theirs.
At home once more,
They begin munching the young tufts of spring in the darkness.
I would like to hold the slenderer one in my arms,
For she has walked over to me
And nuzzled my left hand.
She is black and white,
Her mane falls wild on her forehead,
And the light breeze moves me to caress her long ear
That is delicate as the skin over a girl's wrist.
Suddenly I realize
That if I stepped out of my body I would break
Into blossom.