Jenny Cho

4/5/14

First draft of essay #2

Due 3/35/14

Walking Through Woods on a Snowy Evening

One of many famous quotes of Robert Frost is, "In three words, I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." This quote can remind one of the hardships that he or she's have faced in one's life. Hardships do not simply come and go. They are an everlasting, eternal 'hell' that can be impenetrable. Some may have overcome their hardships, others may still be drowning in them right now as we speak. Either way in the end, don't we all just want a moment to lie down and forget all of our miseries? Don't we all just want to sit back and watch nature as it does it's thing, creating beauty and life all around? The famous Poem, "Walking Through Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost, portrays a very difficult, yet inspiring moment of the narrator's life. He is also going through a lot and handles it in such an amazing way with the last two lines of the poem. The first, second and last stanza is a very great portrayal of the hardships that the narrator faces, and how he deals with it in the end of the poem.

To begin, the first stanza is simply about a man walking into the woods in a snowy evening while on the way to another man's house. We can all assume that this man is someone the narrator has business with. With that being said, it is clear that the narrator is a busy man having business on a snowy night. Usually when it's snowing, we have days off of school and work. However, as we can all see, that was not the case for him. When the poet speaks of the woods that he thinks he knows, it is more like a foreshadowing towards the end. What else contributes to the overall mood is the second stanza where Frost speaks of the horse.

When we take a closer look in the second stanza, the author purposely speaks about the horses actions. It's quite strange because of the fact that the horse cannot speak, nor communicate with humans verbally. Despite this, he gives his master a harness bell a shake to somehow remind him about where he should be going. This wakes the narrator up from daydreaming about the cold, snowy yet beautifully quiet woods. Then, the narrator speaks of the 'darkest night of the year.' This can simply mean one of two things. It may literally be the darkest night of the year, but it may also mean the darkest night of his life. We can assume that darkness represents the hardships that he's gone through. However, right when he is getting lost into the beauty of the darkness, the horse helps the narrator come back to his senses, which then leads to the narrator heading back into his village. This is almost a one-way ticket to one of the most well-known lines of the last stanza. It helps buildup the eerie sensation in the poem as we read it.

The last two lines of the final stanza contains one of the most known lines from Robert Frost's collection of poems. When we dig deeply into the meaning of the story, we can see that the narrator speaks about how beautiful the darkness seems to him. In tough times, he speaks about how the dark woods is almost a source of comfort and there is a temptation to stay in the snowy, cold woods. Temptation of what? Well according to this poem, he says "sleep." Well, what can sleep possibly mean?

What is quite strange about what the narrator assumes, is the wood's attraction. He speaks as if the beautiful, lovely temptations leading him to lie down in the snow is a quite scary ringtone to the last two lines. The poet writes as if the snow is almost like a blanket, a source of safety and comfort. However, what is scary about this is that when one sleeps in the snow it can mean only one thing; death. Critics like Bridget llene Delaney say that the last stanza could possibly be referring to the wish to just sit down in the woods and forget about everything, admiring the woods, although personally I do not think that's the case. Sleeping in the last few lines could possibly mean more of the death wish, or in other words, suicide.

I think almost everyone can relate to this poem. He or she does not necessarily have the desire to suicide, but I'm pretty sure they have had hardships in their lives. I feel like even if one doesn't have a tough situation going on in their lives, they might have the desire to just sit back and relax. Everyone wants to take a break every once in a while, even the ones whom we feel aren't in much trouble.

I feel like the last two lines of this chilly poem are also really inspiring. It makes me think about all of the things I have to do and all of the people who are important to me. No matter how hard things may become, I always have a reason to continue on with journey of life. Think about the promises *you've* kept, and let that be a reason to move on. It doesn't necessarily have to be a person that is important to you, for you to have a purpose in life. You do not need a specific other to have a reason to live. Live for you, live for yourself. Everyone is beyond beautiful in their own way and shouldn't have a reason to give up on anything at all.