

Student Sample

Tusca Lapierre

ENG 1102

Prof Scanlan

Nov 1st, 2019

no bold or underline (yet)

My Explication on a Portion of "The City in Which I Love" by Taiyo Na

In the poem, "The City in Which I Love You," by Taiyo Na, someone seemingly lonely searches for a familiar essence of his city. The poem's description of the different sceneries in the city, gives off a mellow tone. He searches high and low for this distinctive essence until he meets the perfect scene that matches his vulnerability for the city. The two lines towards the end of the poem; "Between brick walls, in a space no wider than my face, a leafless sapling stands in the mud." are the core of the poem, and hold the glue to the significance of its purpose. These two lines, specifically representing the poem terms of personification, symbolism, assonance, and consonance, indicates hope and strength, however a different concept of weakness and oppression can also be interpreted. My brief explication on the selected lines of the poem will help elaborate on their terms and meanings.

✓
✓
✓

In the first line, "Between brick walls, in a space no wider than my face," Na gives a great vision to the reader. Using symbolism, he paints us a picture of being surrounded by brick walls in a tight space, comparing it to the width of ones face. The brick being of rough texture, represent the tough streets of NYC, while the tight space in between can represent NYC's residential conditions of how compacted it can be. Consonance is found in the b's of 'between' and 'brick' and assonance is found in 'space' and 'face' within the letter a.

✓

The next line, "A leafless sapling stands in the mud," is a strong metaphor, filled with symbolism and consonance as well. Sapling is the tenor of the metaphor and mud is the vehicle.

Student Sample

A leafless sapling can represent the young and inexperienced. While sapling is defined as a young tree, being leafless proves that it may need time to grow, symbolizing lack of growth and experience. The sapling standing in mud represents struggle. Mud is a thick substance that a young tree may have difficulty growing in. Though it may be difficult growing, to 'stand' in the mud shows pride in struggle. The consonance found in this line was 'sapling' and 'stand', identifying the letter s in the beginning of both words.

When both lines combine, it allows for the reader to believe in hope. There is a sense of positivity to these two lines, indicating possibility to flourish and grow in a compressed or rough environment. A young tree in mud, located between a tight space of brick walls represent obstacles the young may face in life. With the young tree having potential to grow, there is an aura of strength felt having to grow between the brick, similar to the popular saying; "diamond in the rough" or the "rose that grew out of concrete." A negative concept can be taken from these two lines as well. With a depressive approach, being between brick walls in a small space can signify the oppression of your environment or simply just being locked in a space of discomfort. The sapling represents the weakness. The location of the sapling gives the reader sorrow, portraying that it needs to be rescued or saved. There is personification in the leafless sapling. The end of the line brings it to life; standing in mud can be in relation to someone stuck in a hard place in life, still trying to succeed.

There is a key reason to why the two interpretations are completely opposed to each other. There is a hominid located in the second line, providing a double meaning. A sapling can be considered a young tree with a slender trunk, as well as a young and slender inexperienced person. Acknowledging this hominid can reveal both connotation and denotation for the lines |

power / odd word choice
homonym!!

selected. The denotations of it is the idea of a small tree simply stuck in the mud while located between two walls of brick, which are assumed to be buildings. The connotation of it is the image of a person located somewhere it can be challenging to elevate. Though people in general can share the same vision, life story, or the smallest thought, the expressive language used in these two lines prove how intellectual language can be in order to deliver two totally opposite concepts.