

Date 10 / 26 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "I Dreamed a Dream"Author / Director / Anne Hathaway - Movie

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I first heard "I Dreamed a Dream" in the movie interpretation of the musical *Les Miserables*, but I was inspired to do a log on it when one of my good friends was softly singing it to herself. She told me it was one of the first songs she learned to sing as a child.

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

"I Dreamed a Dream" is sung by Fantine in the musical *Les Miserables*. The lyrics are about how Fantine, while she was a young girl, used to perceive the world as such a great and joyous place, full of dreams and kind people who were always so caring and loving. Even when she grows up, her life seems to be so perfect, as she falls in love and has a baby with a man who "filled [her] days with endless wonder." Nevertheless, he ruins her entire childhood and view of the world by abandoning her, leaving Fantine disillusioned by life.

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

"I Dreamed a Dream" is about Fantine's loss of innocence and her growing perceptions of the world. While young and pure, the beauty of humanity and life in general is unobscured by her optimistic worldview. However, as time naturally runs its course, naivety gives way to an increased understanding of the flaws and imperfections of mankind. Once faced with the realities of the world, everything becomes increasingly more ambiguous and hazy until a loss of hope in humanity is inevitable. Unfortunately, people can not remain ignorant forever, and, once they enter into the real world of undesirable knowledge, there is no turning back.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"I Dreamed a Dream" is a theatrical piece written to display the thoughts of the anguished, dying Fantine. It is broken down into two main chunks, the first of which expresses her feelings towards life as a young, innocent child, while the second exhibits everything she feels has gone wrong in life and her newly tarnished view of humanity. Moreover, in the second portion, the "tiger" that tears her hopes and crushes her dreams really symbolizes the shallow men in life who only like women for their appearances, considering this type of man is the one who destroyed her faith in humans.

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 Dreamed a Dream" performed by Anne Hathaway in the movie interpretation of *Les Miserables* is probably one of the most emotional, touching, and powerful pieces of music I have ever experienced in my life. The sadness and despair in Hathaway's voice as her life is seemingly crushed before her eyes could not be more poignant and moving. Moreover, because she becomes so disillusioned by life, Fantine almost contemplates whether continuing on is actually worthwhile, signifying the utter corruption of mankind. This makes the listeners truly consider how indecent their species has become, which leaves them in a pensive state of thought. The same concept of the loss of innocence as a natural process of development can be seen in the poem "You Begin" by Margaret Atwood. This poem, however, focuses more on the gradual demise of an optimistic outlook through various types of learning and the acquisition of information. Overall, I think that the lyrics of "I Dreamed a Dream" are somewhat poetic, not with regards to the fact that they essentially deem humanity hopeless, but that they are honest and present humanity as it really is, with all its wickedness and corruption.

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