

Date 2 / 28 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / Lyric

Title "After Apple-Picking"

Author / Director / Robert Frost

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I decided to do a log on this poem because, when it comes to poetry, I am sincerely a fan of Robert Frost and various relatable pieces of work. "After Apple-Picking" happened to be the first poem that I encountered and also liked after browsing through a multitude of his poems.

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

"After Apple-Picking" begins with a guy that has been picking apples all day high up on a ladder in the trees. Although he didn't finish his day's work, as "there's a barrel that I didn't fill / Beside it, and there may be two or three / Apples I didn't pick upon some bough," he gets tired and decides to go to bed. He then remembers various instances during the day, such as when he was "looking through a pane of glass [ice] / [He] skimmed this morning from the drinking trough." Before the ice falls out of his hand in his memory, however, he starts to doze off to sleep, knowing he will dream about apples. He also begins to contemplate the how much he actually loathes apple-picking because it is so tiring and time consuming, and how he had to pay particular attention so that no apple would fall and become worthless. He imagines this things will haunt his dreams in his sleep, "whatever sleep it is," and he wonders whether it will be a "long sleep" or simply "just some human sleep."

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

Some major themes of this poem are sleep, dreams, and the reprieve they offer from life. On a figurative level, Frost uses this poem to discuss life and death, or, in essence, eternal sleep. Sleep is the main focus of this poem because with sleep comes a complete escape and getaway from the hard labor of the day, and, be it sleep or death, Frost's major concentration is on the transition from being awake and present in the real world and dealing with all of life's problems, to being asleep and part of a more abstract, intangible, and less realistic dream-like world where those problems may simply not even exist. In this poem, Frost metaphorically uses apple picking and the tough labors that it evokes, or life, and imagery of a long sleep, or death, to depict the hardships that occur on a daily basis in people's lives and the longing that one feels to escape those very hardships by entering into a dream-like world where those troubles are nonexistent or are not applicable under the circumstances. Only in this state are people able to forget about their problems.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"After Apple-Picking," as with the majority of Robert Frost poems, is written in iambic pentameter in rhyme. The rhyme scheme, nevertheless, is irregular and does not follow a set pattern, but instead occurs sometimes on every other line, sometimes at every third line, etc. Without directly comparing them, thus yielding a metaphor, Frost uses apple-picking to symbolize the hardships of life and sleep and drowsiness to symbolize a reprieve or escape from all of the issues surrounding life.

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

Although I like the content of this poem because it reminds me of the seemingly simple rural American lifestyle, I also find it quite disturbing and frankly unpoetic. The poem completely ruined my view on typical life of a country boy, which, in many books that I read when I was younger, has always been carefree and full of pleasure and joy. This poem takes something as simple and seemingly tranquil as picking apples in the countryside and completely destroys the perspective of the reader, especially considering most people are probably going through many more severe struggles and troubles than merely having to pick apples. Of course, it would be ignorant of me to say that apple picking is a simple job or task, but it seems arrogant on the speaker's part to be complaining about having to pick fruit off a tree all day. The task may be boring, monotonous, and taxing, but it does not nearly compare to the extensive turmoil, chaos, and disorder that exists in the world today. The play *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare also contains the motif sleep; however, in this play, sleep is seen as something that terrorizes the minds of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, as their subconsciouses surface and haunt them. Although another completely extreme view of sleep itself, I find this view to be more realistic than the view in this poem because ultimately, sleep does heal problems, troubles, and issues. If people unpoetically depend on sleep to escape from their issues, then they will never confront reality in order to make amends, and nothing will ever get accomplished. Hiding from what actually exists will only lead to further conflict as the problem will never be addressed.

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