PV Log: *(circle one)* (Poem) / **Movie** / **Picture** / **Lyric**

Date ___3___ / ___17___

Title _"Constantly Risking Absurdity"_

Author / Director / _Lawrence Ferlinghetti_

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I found this poem while browsing through the poetry section of Shmoop, looking for poems to log for poetic vision.

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

The speaker of "Constantly Risking Absurdity" compares a poet to an acrobat, "always risking absurdity / and death/ whenever he performs." The speaker then goes on to say that the high wire the acrobat is flailing on is a "wire of his own making" just like a poet writes his own poetry, performing various stunts and risky acrobatics all in order to get to "where Beauty stands and waits." Whether the acrobat gets to the final destination or not, he at least plunges himself into the "empty air / of existence."

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

The speaker of this poem begins by claiming that a poet risks absurdity and death by engaging in the pursuit of writing and poetry in the first place. He is not trying to say that poets do feats of great physical prowess that threatens to cause them bodily and physical harm; rather, he is explaining the risks of putting one's heart into the search of the poetic. Moreover, the high wire that the acrobat and the poet walk upon represents the terrifying journey of self awareness that the poet undertakes in order to find some sort of truth or beauty in nature or in human life. Poets often find themselves in dangerous positions in their contiguous voyages towards answers, and they do all they can, whether it be tricks, flips, or other stunts, in order to convince everyone else of their ideas and to make their ideas a reality. Even if a poet misses his opportunity or fails to grab the attention of potential viewers, it is all still part of the process of creativity and self-expression. The process may be tough and hard to endure, but if a poet is lucky enough to get his hands on that elusive beauty, then it will all ultimately be worthwhile.

Form   (Diction?   Construction Terms?   Symbolism?)

Everything about "Constantly Risking Absurdity" is free. The structure, meter, and form are all free, and so much enjambment exists that it even makes the poem quite difficult to read. Nevertheless, all of this free expression is meant to remind the viewer of the creative and unique process of writing poetry itself. In the poem, the acrobat clearly symbolizes the poet in his search for an eternal truth or some sort of epiphany of mankind. The high wire and all of the acrobatic tricks that the acrobat performs also represents the poet pursuit for beauty.

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

"Constantly Risking Absurdity" is a great poem because of its loose, unorganized, and carefree presentation and form. Nothing structured exists about the poem, and I think that is very important in the portrayal of the meaning that the poem is trying to get across to the reader. Many poems exist such that they detract from the true aesthetic value and insight that poems and the arts provide because they are simply written for fun or are derived from a motive that didn't cause the author to pursue meaning or significance. Nevertheless, this poem in particular sets out to recognize the true artists, the true poets in society that put themselves out there and take a leap, ultimately with hopes that they will discover something truly beneficial and worthwhile. These types of people, not necessarily just poets themselves, are the ones who search for the poetic happenings and occurrences in their everyday tasks and the ones who discover a meaning and purpose to their very existences. This tribute to the poetic people in life is rather poetic because it encourages people to go out and to make something of their lives, to discover the secret to life, and to live for beauty and truth. People who live in such a poetic fashion will truly derive more pleasure and self-satisfaction out of their lives than an average, dull person ever could.

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