

Date 3 / 28 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle "Fog"Author / Director / Carl Sandburg

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I first heard about this poem last semester when a friend of mine told me he had logged a very short poem off of Shmoop without telling me the name of it. I presume that "Fog" was the poem that he logged, and, after reading it, I found it to be somewhat poetic in an interesting way.

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

"Fog" is a short and sweet poem about fog itself, but it is put into a metaphoric sort of context. The poem begins with fog rolling over a harbor and then lurking into the depths of the city, appearing quite catlike. At first, it is quiet and unsuspecting, as it "comes / on little cat feet," but then it moves on, either disappearing or finding another city and harbor to pounce on.

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

Though petite and little, "Fog" contains some relevant meaning and significance in terms of perception and how one sees things. In the poem, the fog essentially represents the haze that clouds all humans, no matter how perceptive they may actually be, and inhibits their ability to see what is truly happening around them. This haze come as silent as a cat and leaves without a trace, almost as if the haze didn't exist, making it even harder for people to discern the reality and truth from the fake and artificial. Moreover, the dissipating of the fog represents people becoming less oblivious and more awake to their surroundings. Nevertheless, the fog is always present, shielding people from the truth even when they least expect it.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

"Fog" is simply a two stanza poem, each stanza consisting of one sentence each. The poem is straight to the point and simple, and it is written in free verse. The extended metaphor in the poem relates fog to the creepy, mysterious, and unannounced actions of a cat, a relatively simple comparison that most all people should be able to understand. The presence of fog symbolizes blindness while the absences of fog symbolizes enlightenment and freedom from obliviousness.

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 this poem is lacking in complexity, I find its message to be more relevant than most poems I have logged thus far. The poem at first seems confusing and bewildering because of the fact that it is so simple; however, once the reader begins to understand the metaphor that practically makes up the entire poem, the meaning and significance the poem is trying to relay to the reader could not be more obvious and evident. This poem particularly relates to the poem "One Train Hides Another" by Kenneth Koch as well as the essay "Seeing" by Annie Dillard. Both of these pieces of work revolve around the universal theme of perception and seeing, essentially arguing that the things a person sees, determined by his unique and distinguished perception of the world around him, may not accurately represent reality or the truth of the matter at hand. I personally have experienced perception difficulties in a line at Knotts Berry Farm for a ride known as the Xcelerator. The line split up into two lines, a normal line and a front car only line, after about thirty minutes of wait time. Of course, the front car only line was significantly shorter, so I thought that it would be able to get through the line much quicker. Unfortunately, I did not realize until I got into the line that only two people from my line were allowed onto the roller coaster each time people loaded the ride. I ended up spending an extra hour and a half at the same ride in the same line than I would have had I stayed in the normal line in the first place. Of course, especially for naive people like me in this particular instance, what one sees is oftentimes not what one gets. Ultimately, this poem is poetic because it urges people to be aware, mindful of, and conscious of their surroundings, and to try and discern the real from the fake in their encounters in life. People who live life in such away are more enlightened and knowledgeable about life in general, and thus are better able to make use of their talents and efforts in society.

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