

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

Date 11 / 16

Title People Climbing Mount Everest

Author / Director / Source: Reagan Plus Cats

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I saw this picture on a website that I was taken to via Google Images after searching for "people climbing Mount Everest."

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

In this picture, there are about ten people climbing the insanely steep and rocky terrain of Mount Everest. One slip or misstep looks like it could lead any one of these hikers to their doom. Five people are closer towards the camera at the lower end of one of the mountain's peaks, two people are relatively halfway up the peak, and the last three are near the top. The mountain is covered in snow, except for the exposed visible rock, and most people are wearing either red or orange colored insulated clothing.

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

Hiking up a mountain has always resided as a cliché metaphor about life, referring to how it is always such an uphill battle in face of many obstacles and difficulties. Nevertheless, the climbing of such an intensely steep and perilous mountain, such as Mount Everest, in which only a handful of people have succeeded, says so much more about life and the way humans should approach it. Yes, of course, life at times can be full of sad and depressing moments, which puts up a seemingly impenetrable barrier; nevertheless, there are also those victorious and glorious moments, in which a person breaks through and feels like he or she is literally on top of the world. The various base camps and checkpoints along the hiking of Mount Everest represent those breakthroughs. Moreover, Mount Everest is not implying just to let life and to subsist in a state of mediocrity, but it is implying to push oneself beyond the thinkable boundaries until one has become his or her best possible self.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

This photo is taken from someone who is trailing behind and at a lower altitude than the people in the picture. The photo is taken at a slightly upward angle, consists predominantly of white and shades of blue, and there is no definitive focus of the picture. In the photo, the people hiking represent the struggles of life, while the people at the top signify the glory and greatness of finally achieving one's goals.

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 sincerely like this picture because it honestly portrays the three general phases of all endeavors in life. Every goal or ambition and even life itself consist of an initiation, the actual journey itself (elongation), and a termination. Unfortunately, many people look solely at the end or the termination as the ultimate goal, and they become disillusioned when they discover that this goal may not be as easily achieved as they had thought. People with this outlook simply give up and don't even try because they view the situation as impossible. What these people need to realize is that though the end may be desirable, achieving that end is in no way simple and easy and, depending on the goal, may even take the entirety of lifetime. Ultimate achievement comes out of endurance and persistence and the motivation provided by reaching checkpoints along the way. Shortcuts are futile. I do find this photo to be quite poetic because of its relevance in so many people's lives and because it pushes people to be patient and to develop an inner mental strength in order to succeed. Moreover, the photo urges people to explore life beyond their bounds and limits and to live life to their maximum potential.

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