

Date 1 / 19 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / Lyric

Title Rearview Mirror

Author / Director / Matthew McLaughlin

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I took this picture on my iPhone in front of Marshall McKeever's house after parking on the street. I looked in the rearview mirror of my car and saw two flags waving in the wind, which I did not see as I originally drove by them.

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

This picture of a rearview mirror is taken from the point of view of a driver through his side window. In the picture, there are two houses, both more rustic, country appearing houses; however, one of the houses appears in the rearview mirror while the other is directly in line of the camera shot. Many shrubs and various other plants also exist in both the mirror and the picture itself, furthering the similarity between the two perspectives in the photograph. Finally, the most important difference that distinguishes the apparent house and surroundings from the image reflected on the mirror is the presence of two flags, a California state flag and a United States of America flag, which are flying in the wind. The flags are essentially the focal point of the mirror image.

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

This picture of a rearview mirror is generally metaphorical for hindsight, or the perception and understanding of the very nature and significance of an event after it has occurred, but this picture is also more specific in terms of my own personal experience. A lot of things become drowned out or unperceived while driving because one is so focused on the road, and so, when I saw these two flags in my mirror after parking, I felt both a feeling of deprivation as well as a feeling of better understanding. Even though mere nominal objects, I did not even notice the flags while driving by, which should have at least somewhat stood out to me in the monotony of a suburban neighborhood. This is just one instance that proves that, for the most part, people are trapped in a recurrent state of obliviousness, unaware of their surroundings and even of their own possessions, only to gain insight after the matter at hand has occurred. A person can not truly know something until he has actually experienced it, making hindsight one of the most important virtues and plagues of humanity.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

The rearview mirror in the picture is obviously symbolic of hindsight, a greater and broader understanding of a situation after it has passed by. The flags pictured in the mirror symbolize that very missed moment or opportunity that one does not perceive or observe until it is in the past. The whole picture, taken from the point of view of a driver and what he sees in his rearview mirror, represents the very nature of human existence and the inherent essence of decisions and consequences.

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

Though not necessarily the greatest representation of the concept of hindsight, I thoroughly enjoy this picture because it is quite suggestive of the human condition. Not only does the picture prove the ignorance and obliviousness of mankind, but it also somewhat displays how actions have consequences. People in no way can genuinely know and understand the truth unless they experience it first hand, which comes from a combination of acting or making a decision as well as perceiving. Annie Dillard's essay entitled "Seeing" urges the reader to discern and see beyond the obvious so that in hindsight, he or she has no regrets. Nevertheless, this type of "seeing" is made out to be much easier than it indeed is. Just like in the song "Let Her Go" by Passenger, people are so caught up by the beautiful, alluring things in their lives that they are obstructed from the light and the truth, preventing the recognition of the value and worth of some of the occurrences and happenings in life. Thus, people are oblivious and ignorant to the things that make their lives so blessed, often taking things for granted rather than seeing and understanding a deeper meaning and significance. This photo is poetic because it seemingly suggests and advocates to observe and be attentive to one's surroundings, to take it all in and to appreciate the joys of life, so that in hindsight or the looking back on one's past, a person does not long for change or regret any of his choices and life decisions.

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