

Date 3 / 23 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / LyricTitle Unpacking Head of Statue of Liberty, 1885Author / Director / UNKNOWN

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I came across this photo while browsing through various historical photos on a website known as "Bored Panda."

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

This picture depicts an unfinished portion of the head of the Statue of Liberty being unpacked and supported by various wooden beams and a metal rod that seems to run through the center of the head. In front of the head is a woman dressed in an old fashioned dress, a long coat, and an elaborate looking hat. Her hand is extended and is sitting on the lip of the face of the statue. Also in front of the head is a little boy dressed in a long coat that is completely buttoned up and goes all the way to his knees. The boy is also wearing a rounded cap of some sort. They are presumably on Liberty Island in the middle of New York Harbor in Manhattan, New York City.

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

The main themes of this historical photograph are liberty and cooperation. The Statue of Liberty represents many things, among them friendship between nations and freedom from oppression, persecution, and maltreatment. Before air travel, ships would sail into New York Harbor and Lady Liberty would welcome their passengers, many of them immigrants to the United States for the first time. These immigrants were seeking the intrinsic freedom and rights that their natures desired, and so they went out on a limb and came to the US in order to break the restrictions imposed on them, opening them up to the limitless possibilities of the New World. The unpacking of this statue represents all of the values that this wonderful nation is founded upon, serving as a beacon of hope for those countries that are struggling with major corruption, tyranny, and repression. The Statue of Liberty was also given to the US by France to celebrate America's 100 years as a nation, commemorating the alliance between the two countries during the Revolutionary War. Cooperation like this is much needed if the international community is to progress at all in their affairs.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

The Statue of Liberty's introduction in the United States is clearly symbolic of a multitude of values and ideals. For every immigrant that came to America by boat, the Lady of Liberty became their first sight, a sight so important and meaningful that they probably remembered it for the rest of their lives. For instance, generally the statue has always symbolized hope and freedom for Americans. The shackles on the statue represent the attainment of freedom for all Americans and how the statue, representing the citizens, has been set free and is taking its steps towards progress. Moreover, the torch and flame in the statue's hand are symbols for the pursuit towards and passionate desire for enlightenment in America.

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 really enjoy this picture because it represents and stands for the wonderful attributes and characteristics that ultimately make the United States one of the best countries to live in today. Because people in the US haven't had to experience the utter turmoil, maltreatment, and oppression that other countries, such as China and North Korea, impose upon their citizens, they often take for granted the very ideals that this country was founded upon; however, this statue helps to bring people to a better awareness and appreciation for the fortunate rights and liberties they possess as American citizens. Because it is inevitable that humans are to abuse freedom, the United States isn't a utopia per se, but the country by far leads in its preservation of the dignity and self-esteem that humans were created to possess. In sheer and utter contrast, Aldous Huxley presents his extreme view of a utopia in *Brave New World* that involves the taking away of freedom, rights, and the dignity of every human being by forcing propaganda into the minds of the citizens, influencing them in ways that predetermine their behaviors in the future. Only when the values of the United States are juxtaposed with the values, or lack thereof, of other entities does it actually make someone realize how fortunate they are to be born in such an amazing country. I think that that is why this picture is poetic. Not only does it represent the beginning of a new and improved way of life for humans, who desire intrinsic rights and liberties, but it also forces the viewer to take into perspective the injustices of the world around him and to better appreciate his own fortune and well being.

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