

The sick Rose by William Blake

The General Meaning

The poem “The Sick Rose” shows the presentation of a rose that has become sick due to a worm that has made it a bed. The poem highlights the main idea of love, hatred, and destruction.

The Detailed Meaning

The speaker, the poet himself, calls a rose sick. He uses an apostrophe, which means that he is calling the rose, signifying it as a personification. He states that the rose is sick and that an invisible worm has reached it during the howling storm at night and made it his home. The poem shows the poetic art of Blake, signifying how beauty and love become the victim of the invisible forces of nature. The stanza contributes to the main ideas of love and hatred.

The speaker states that the invisible worm has made this crimson flower on his bed. However, when this worm, just out of love, lives in flower, it destroys the life of that very flower. The flower fades away because of the dark and secret love of the worm. It means that although the worm loves beauty, it destroys life. This destruction is at the heart of love. This stanza completes the main idea of love, hatred, and destruction. However, this meaning lies in the symbolic meanings of the poem.

Love, hatred, and destruction are the major themes underlined in this poem. The speaker takes pity on a beautiful rose whose life is made hell by a tiny flying worm. He found her in her crimson bed and cursed her with his dark secret love. The speaker has presented love as a dark and destructive thing that makes the lover stand on the verge of suffering. Unlike human emotions, the rose is presented as pure and gorgeous, but a worm in the form of love enters her life and steals her joy and beauty, leaving her to suffer for her entire life.

The Poet’s Intention

The poem portrays two central images: the rose and the worm. It is possible to see the worm as a symbol of death, given that worms are associated with decay and are commonly said to feed upon the dead (we are ‘food for worms’ in our graves). By contrast, roses are often associated with love, beauty, and the erotic: the stuff of life. In this interpretation, what the poem presents us

with is the constant conflict and tension between life (with all of its pleasures and joys) and death (which is always present in the background).

[illegible]

Break, break, break by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

The General Meaning

The poem interweaves the agony of loss and nostalgia. The poet is emphasizing on the beautiful days he spent with his friend and the pain he suffers from the loss.

The Detailed Meaning

The poet is standing on the sea shore watching the waves crash the gray stones. The poem is set in a sad tone mixed with agony, nostalgia and loss. The speaker visualizes and recollects about the joyful youthful days with his friend through the people he sees at the shore.

The sight of the fisherman's boy shouting and playing merrily with his sister and the sailor lad who is singing happy songs sitting on his boat reminds him about the young days he had spent happily with his friend.

In the second part of the poem he goes into a philosophical tone. He watches the stately ships going to their next port. He compares this imagery with life and its journey. Like the ship sailing, life also moves from one point to the other. Whatever happens life keeps on rolling and we are transported to the next phase. He can be referring to the journey between birth and death through these lines.

The speaker laments about his lost friend by reconnecting him through the phrases ‘the touch of a vanished hand’ and ‘the voice that is still’. These phrases are a direct reference to his friend. The waves continue to crash on the rocks and life continues. He continues to cry about how the lost old days are never going to return back to him.

In this poem the poet is talking to the readers through images. The death of his friend is implied through the ‘vanished hands’ and the ‘voice that is still’. The image of the ‘ship’ that is going forward implies the cycle of life that waits for none. ‘Sea’ itself is an imagery. Life is like the sea that keeps on going. The waves in the sea never pause, similar is the journey of life.

The Poet's Intention

The poet expresses the sad feelings and longing the speaker feels due to losing someone he loves.

[illegible]

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

The General Meaning

In these lines of the poem, the poet describes how one of the sailors shoots an albatross and thus brings a curse on the ship. Throughout the poem, Coleridge uses literary techniques like personification and repetition while also shifting the mood between peace, fear, and feelings of doom.

The Detailed Meaning

The second part of the poem describes what happens right after the Mariner kills an albatross. A favourable gentle wind blew. The white foam flew off the surface of the ocean. The ship sailed onward calmly and the track made by it was clearly visible. It seemed to them that they were the first people who had ever come to that silent sea. There is a use of alliteration in the first two lines of this stanza. There is a repetition of ‘F’ and ‘b’ sounds which creates a musical effect besides conveying the idea of the smooth and swift gliding movement of the ship whereas the use of the word ‘furrow’ illustrates metaphor in this stanza. And the word furrow refers to the splitting of water caused behind a ship due to its forward movement. The line ‘The furrow followed free’ suggests that the ship sailed on smoothly.

The wind stopped blowing. The sails too dropped. There was complete silence all around. It was a very sad situation. The eerie silence of the sea was broken only by the sailors' talk. The 'breeze' had stopped blowing because the Albatross's wrongful killing had begun to show its effects. The ancient Mariner and his fellow sailors are about to be punished for the 'sin'. It is to be noted that lines in this para create an atmosphere of eerie silence and absolute inactivity. The atmosphere leaves the sailors full of suspense, fear and uncertainty.

The sky looked like heated copper. The sun looked blood red. Even at noon, it stood vertically above the mast and looked as small as the moon. Again there is a use of metaphor in this stanza when the poet says: ‘a hot and copper sky’ and ‘The bloody Sun’. The sun is blazing red

and scorching hot. It is also ‘blood’ red in colour, hence it has been called ‘bloody sun’. To the sailors, the harsh weather signifies that they have to face and suffer under this type of weather due to the ‘sin’ of killing of Albatross. It is a part of the punishment they being subjected to. These lines also tell about the location of the ship. The ship is on or near the equator because the sun is very harsh and is at a vertical angle at noon – a phenomenon that occurs in the equatorial region only.

The ship remained stuck at one place day after day. It did not move because there was neither wind nor tide. It looked just like the picture of a ship on the sea. The ancient Mariner and his fellow sailors on board their ship were stuck in the middle of the silent sea. And they were brought into this condition because the mariners had drifted into the silent sea where there was neither wind nor tide, hence they were stranded there. There is a use of simile in the last two lines of this stanza. It graphically describes the pictures of a becalmed ship on a silent and still ocean. Hence, it is very apt, and the repetition conveys the sheer length of time the sailors' ship was stuck up in the middle of the ocean.

The Mariner says that though the ship was surrounded by water all sides yet the very boarder of the ship began to crack and shrink because of the excessive heat. They were in the midst of so much water, but there wasn't even a drop they could drink. These lines have the repetition of 'w' sound, while the repetition of the line: 'Water, water, everywhere,' signifies the peculiar fate the sailors had to face. Although they were surrounded by immeasurable amount of sea water, they had not a drop of water to wet their parched mouths. The repetition gauges the extent of their misery. And the sailors have 'not a drop' to drink because their supply of fresh water was exhausted and they simply could not drink the salty sea water.

The Poet's Intention

Coleridge seems to deliver a message that every life is important even if it is a life of an animal. The poet warns people not to harm or kill animals for the sake of pleasure but only when in danger or in need.

[illegible]

She dwelt among the untrodden ways by William Wordsworth

The General Meaning

The poem tells the story of the speaker's feeling of loss and grief on the death of Lucy. Though charming and beautiful, Lucy lived in isolation and few people knew her.

The Detailed Meaning

The poem begins with the speaker describing a maiden whose identity is not yet specified. He relates how she lived in a remote place where few people ever went. The speaker emphasizes that she lived by the springs of Dove—an actual location in England. Despite the peaceful description of her surroundings, the speaker reveals that she was never praised and was unloved—a lonely figure.

The speaker then moves to describe the maiden in greater detail. He compares her to a violet concealed by a mossy stone that no one really cared to notice. By comparing the maiden to a flower, the reader immediately understands the depth of her beauty. However, the mention of the violet by a mossy stone also implies that, like a small flower obscured from view by a mossy rock, the maiden also went unnoticed. She was “half hidden” from the eye of the public, suggesting that she was very alone despite her beauty and purity. He further compares her beauty to that of a star—particularly, a single brilliant star shining in the sky. In a few words, the speaker conveys the power of the maiden's beauty. The simile reveals that she is not only beautiful—she is the single loveliest star in the sky.

Lastly, the speaker repeats the fact that the maiden lived unrecognized. Due to her solitude, few people could possibly know when she ceased to exist. For the first time, the speaker reveals that the maiden in question is Lucy and that she is no longer alive. This sad fact tortures the speaker, who implies throughout the poem that he loved her.

The Poet's Intention

The speaker wants to express his feelings of sadness and sorrow for the death of a maiden who lived and died unknown.

