

Day 35 January 21/22

Goals:

- Go over HW 15 ("Courage" & "Legacy")
- Go over "Birdfoot's Grandpa"
- "My Heart Leaps Up" & "Is My Team Ploughing?"
- Quiz on p. 1 & 2 of Poetry Packet (Elements of Poetry)

Test on the Poems on Day 36 (Mon & Tues)

“The Courage That My Mother Had

1. The speaker is talking about courage.
2. The speaker compares courage (and her mother) to granite rock.
3. The contrast is this: brooches are delicate and valuable pieces of jewelry that can be passed down or bequeathed in a will; courage cannot be given to one’s descendants; courage in the long run is more valuable than jewelry.
4. The mood is despairing and desperate. The speaker says, “I have need” of that courage which her mother “took into the grave!” (Notice the exclamation point!!!!)
5. The most important things in life cannot be inherited from one’s ancestors or passed down to one’s descendants, things such as courage.

“Legacy II”

1. In the beginning of the poem the speaker says that his grandfather is uneducated, quiet, ignorant of English, and preoccupied with “simple things.” The speaker doesn’t seem to respect his grandfather.
2. Toward the end of the poem, the speaker calls himself “a poor fool / who went to college / trying to find [his] way back.”
3. The spacing of the words resembles the points on a compass. They *give* the direction and *are* the direction.
4. The “center of the world” is a symbol for grandfather’s wisdom. The exact place “where Grandfather stood / that day” may be his farm or it may symbolize a point where the truly important things in life come into focus or perspective.

“Birdfoot’s Grandpa”

1. The old man (grandpa) is trying to save toads by helping them across the road so that they do not get run over by the car.
2. The speaker thinks the old man is wasting his time. (“you can’t save them all / ... / we’ve got places to go”)
3. “lights and leaping, / live”
“saying / you can’t save” “smiled and said”
4. The headlights of the car light up the rainy mist around the old man’s head forming a halo – a sign of holiness; the leathery hands reveal that the man has worked with this hands all his life; the old man’s wisdom extends from the earth to the heavens.
5. “[The toads] have places to go to / too” suggests that not only humans have goals and a purpose (“we’ve got places to go”) but so do other creatures, and we humans should respect the purposes of nature.

My heart leaps up when I behold ^a
 A rainbow in the sky: ^b
 So was it when my life began; ^c
 So is it now I am a man; ^c
 So be it when I shall grow old, ^a
 Or let me die! ^b
 The Child is father of the Man; ^c
 And I could wish my days to be ^d
 Bound each to each by natural
 piety. ^d

mostly
iambic

1. What kind of poem is this? How do you know?
2. Explain the paradox in the third-last line.
3. What is the theme of the poem?

contradiction

Is My Team Ploughing

BY A. E. HOUSMAN

"Is my team ploughing,
 That I was used to drive
 And hear the harness jingle
 When I was man alive?"



Ay, the horses trample,
 The harness jingles now;
 No change though you lie under
 The land you used to plough.

"Is football playing
 Along the river shore,
 With lads to chase the leather,
 Now I stand up no more?"



“Is my girl happy,
That I thought hard to leave,
And has she tired of weeping
As she lies down at eve?”

Ay, she lies down lightly,
She lies not down to weep:
Your girl is well contented.
Be still, my lad, and sleep.

“Is my friend hearty,
Now I am thin and pine,
And has he found to sleep in
A better bed than mine?”

Yes, lad, I lie easy,
I lie as lads would choose;
I cheer a dead man’s sweetheart,
Never ask me whose.

1. What type of poem is this? How do you know?
2. What is the meter of lines 5 & 6?
3. Who is the speaker talking to? Where are the speaker and his interlocutor?
4. Explain the last line?

awe -

wonder; curiosity; intense admiration mixed with a little fear. ("awesome") Rick Jenneret and the Buffalo Sabres.

piety -

reverence; intense respect; "religious" respect.