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E. E. Cummings is a well respected writer who is famous for his brilliant and energetic poetry. His interesting poems have captured the heart of readers all over the globe. The specific style of structural form that Cummings uses is unlike a traditional poem in the aspect that it is meant to be seen, rather than heard. This interesting structural form can be seen in the poems “ l(a)” and “ The Sky was Candy”. “ l(a)” and “ The Sky was Candy” are similar in the affect of their structural form on the symbolic meaning of the poem.
“ l(a)” and “ The Sky was Candy” are similar in the way that their structural form turns simplistic language into a whimsical and complicated poem. If heard a loud, “ l(a” would seem nothing more than a poem about the beauty of the falling leaves in autumn. Without seeing the physical structure of the poem as Cummings intended it, the deeper meaning behind the poem is lost. The striking structure of the poem gives it a different meaning because the staggered and exaggerated placement of the letters creates a lonely and isolated feeling to the poem, which impacts the meaning that the readers takes away. The “ loneliness” that Cummings describes within this poem is emphasized by the staggered and isolated lettering. This can be seen though Cummings specific placement of the letters “ one” within the word “ loneliness”. This can also be seen in the way the letters appear to be falling down the page, just like the leaf. The significance within the poem “ l(a)” is defined by the physical structure of the poem, which adds depth and meaning to the poem. This same importance in physical structure and meaning can be seen within the poem “ The Sky was Candy”.
“ The Sky was Candy” is similar to “ l(a)” through the way that the meaning of each of these poems is emphasized through the structural form of the poem. Within “ The Sky was Candy,” Cummings uses exaggerated spacing and dashes to create a deeper meaning within the poem. If this poem was read aloud, rather than seen, it would sound like a descriptive and creative description of candy. Yet when this poem is seen, rather than heard, it adds a complicated and whimsical meaning to the poem. The flowing of the letters across the page in a zigzag formation at the end of the poem represents a unique beauty that is described within the poem. The exaggerated spacing and dashes within the poem represent the open possibilities and create a sense of energy within the poem. The physical structure of this poem has a deep impact on the meaning.
While both “ l(a)” and “ The Sky was Candy” are similar in the use of structural form for symbolic meaning, they are both very different poems when it comes to the type of meaning seen within the poem. “ l(a)” is a poem which has a sad, lonesome meaning within it. This poem leaves the reader feeling cold and depressed after reading it. “ The Sky was Candy,” on the other hand, is a poem that has a fun and colorful meaning, which can bring joy to the reader. This poem leaves the reader with a sense of beauty and endless possibility. This shows that although both poems use structural form to convey meaning, they both provide a different meaning.
E. E. Cummings’ poems “ l(a)” and “ The Sky was Candy” are both interesting and unique poems that use their structural form to create a symbolic meaning with the poem. Although these poems can seem similar in style, the both represent very different meanings. These poems are a strong example of how poetry can vary in many different ways, and can use a variety of styles and structural forms to create a deeper meaning. These poems show the reader than sometimes a poem is meant it be read, rather than heard.