

Thiago decoene

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Thiago DeCoene 4/20/13 Eng 101 Professor Dahiny Poem and its Structure

Emily Dickenson is a renowned poet whose poems reflect mostly on her loneliness and her want for a possible happiness in her future. Her style of writing was greatly influenced by poets of the seventeenth-century, who lived in England. Due to her unique style of writing, depth, and thought provoking themes she has become revered as one of the greatest female poets to this day. Her poem "I felt a funeral in my brain" expresses the feeling of losing her normal thought processes and functions in her brain, simulating the same feeling a person might have at the time of death. The poem is a cinquain written in a hymn meter. The style of her writing might suggest she never wrote in the iambic pentameter because hymn meters don't follow the same rules. The lines alternate between iambic Tetrameter and iambic Trimeter. It follows a more ABDB form as the lines might show: I felt a Funeral, in my Brain, And Mourners to and fro Kept treading-treading-till it seemed That Sense was breaking through-(1-4) This form of writing does not generally follow the common meter as only the second and fourth lines rhyme. What is interesting about this style is that the stanza has the feel of a Common Meter yet the rhyme scheme is not ABAB like the Common meter commands. The tone, the rhyme scheme, and the varied meter differentiate Ballad Meter from Common Meter. (Gillespie 1) This poem is about the loss of her mind and the culmination of events that occur in her head. By discarding her feelings she allows us to see what is torturing her without delving too deep into the privacy of her emotions. The poem allow us to simultaneously be there watching the funeral procession next to Emily and also the pain, confusion, and uncertainty that she has. Cynthia Griffin

Wolf tells us that "" Without the systematic, articulated ceremony of the funeral rites, a reader might have no idea what the speaker was describing, and the poem would lack coherence and unity; without the steady distortion of the terms by which self is defined, the reader could not apprehend the full experiential anguish of the process." (<http://voices.yahoo.com/emily-dickinson-allegorical-analysis-felt-funeral-25515.html>) The metaphor of the funeral represents that a part of her is dying. Since most people understand that funerals and death go hand in hand it's a more obvious connotation. The first stanza represents numbness and depression. It seems that hope is lost and the brain is trying to understand the situation yet is incapable of doing so as the first stanza shows: I felt a funeral in my brain, And mourners, to and fro, Kept treading, treading, till it seemed That sense was breaking through. As the poem continues the sense of despair and the feeling of anxiety slowly sets in. The mind decays and understanding becomes difficult as raw emotions such as fear slowly creep in. Everything around her seems to close in, allowing her to be more aware of her isolation, fears, and anguish. Emily Dickenson slowly loses her own rationality in stanzas three and four. She claims to be of " some strange race" alienating herself. In the last stanza as she is standing over the plank of reason, she is at the end of her rope. This is the last bit of rationality and security she has as her world crumbles around her. Her fall is described as " plunges" signifying the extreme speed her mental state is deteriorating at. Since the plank of reason broke she no longer has any support to lean on or stand on and falls. Emily Dickenson's poem " I felt a funeral in my brain" allows people to