

The analysis of the poem eating poetry by mark strand

Literature



**ASSIGN
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Analysis Paper Draft The conflict between and critics is a popular theme among world renowned Some consider that critics have no right to criticize literary works. But reviews by eminent critics help the readers to understand literary works from a different angle of view. Within this scenario, Mark Strand' poem, named as Eating Poetry, is noteworthy because the same strikes against the traditional approach related to literary criticism. To be specific, this poem deals with the author's perspective on critics who make use of criticism to reveal their narrow-minded attitude towards literary creativity. Thesis statement: In his poem named as Eating Poetry, Mark Strand makes use of surrealistic theme and depressing mood to embarrass the readers, and literary devices to lead the readers towards the strange realm of literary creativity. Literary analysis This literary analysis is divided into four, namely: theme, mood, poetic devices, and personal opinion.

Theme: One can see that Surrealism as a sub-genre of art deals with subconscious mind and deeds. Within this context, the poet allows his senses to experience an imaginary subconscious state. To be specific, the speaker is trapped in a dream like world, where no one is interested in books. One can see that books must be distributed and read. When books are stored in a library, the very aim of a book is limited to the context of storage and preservation. In Robert Von Hallberg's work, the speaker states that, " I have been eating poetry" (170). Those who come to library never love books, but try to swallow the same without perceiving the ideas. Mood: In the poem, silence in the library creates depressed mood in the minds of the readers. To be specific, the librarian does not try to attract the readers towards books. The author inculcates the elements of dullness like dull librarian, dull light,

silence, and librarian's attitude towards books to create depressing mood in the poem. The speaker states that, "The light is dim" (171). Besides, depressing mood acts the role of a background that adds worthlessness to the librarian. Poetic devices: Some of the main poetic devices made use by the poet in his work, like imagery, metaphor, symbolism, and tone are examined here.

A. Imagery First of all, eating is symbolic of the critic's attitude towards poems. Some critics never try to understand the ideas put forth by poets. Instead, they try to prove their mastery on literature by assessing poems. In the poem, the critic is feeling happy with his job, but he does not have deeper understanding on his job. The speaker states that, "The poems are gone" (171). He simply continues his job in a monotonous and mechanical way. In the poem, the term eating is utilized as a powerful imagery that exposes the critics. To be specific, the dog in the poem does not try to taste the book, but tries to eat it.

B. Metaphor One can see that the poet is interested in using metaphors to convey his messages to the readers. For instance, the process of eating is used as a metaphor that represents the problems faced by writers. The writer considers that his work must be experienced by the readers. But the librarian does not allow readers to experience the books collected in the library. Instead, the librarian allows the critic to eat the books.

C. Symbolism In the poem, the dog is symbolic of critics who are interested in criticizing and judging poems without considering the significance of literary creativity. In the poem, the dog is not aware of the significance of the poems within the context of literature. Still, the librarian does not try to stop the dog. The speaker states that, "The librarian does not believe what she sees" (170). In the poem, the

helplessness faced by the librarian is symbolic of the helplessness faced by writers in front of critics. The librarian knows that the dog does not have the right to eat books. On the other side, the dog considers that eating poems is an important job. D. Tone One can see that tone plays an important role in creating emotional appeal to the poem. In the poem, the poet makes use of different tones in different stanzas. This helps the poet to communicate with the readers in a different but positive way. In the opening, the poet makes use of sincere tone because the same is essential to attract the readers. Then, the tone gradually shifts into humour and dullness. The concluding stanzas prove that the poet makes use of sarcastic tone to criticize the critics on their wrong deeds. Personal opinion: In my opinion, the poem portrays the problems faced by writers and those who enjoy literary works. David Citino states that, " Mark Strand, in " Eating Poetry," shows us that reading and writing poetry can be most satisfying:" (119). To be specific, writers have no control over their works because writing aims to provide pleasure to the readers. But the critics intrude into this context and claim superiority over literature. This is totally wrong because different individuals perceive literature according to their experiences in their lives. The poet makes use of the library as a background to reveal his opinion on literary criticism. The poet's positive attitude towards authentic readers who love books is revealed through the helplessness faced by the librarian. The writer makes use of a number of symbols and images to expose the hidden agenda of the critics. The images and symbols may be unreal, but the central theme of the work is real. Summing, the usage of surrealistic theme and depressing mood leads Mark Strand's readers to an imaginary world. Still, the poet

provides ample importance to the basic principles of poetry. This is evident from the usage of different literary devices in his poem. He never tries to attract his readers through wordiness, but exposes the hidden agenda of critics in general. In short, the poem is not against literary criticism, but is against the critics with hidden agenda, and in favor of serious readers. Works Cited Citino, David. Paperwork. Kent: Kent State University Press, 2003. Print. Hallberg, Robert Von. Charles Olson: The Scholar's Art. US: Harvard University Press, 1978. Print.