

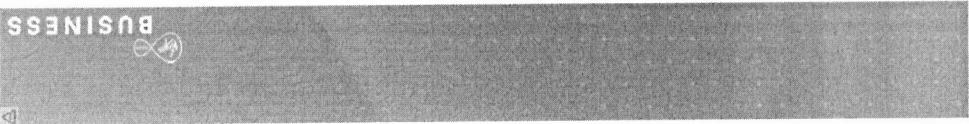
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The Hard Poem by Simon Armitage - Poem Hunter



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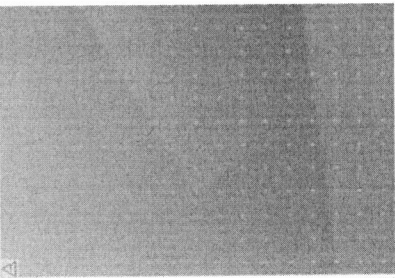
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The Hard - Poem by Simon Armitage



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Here on the Hard, you're welcome to pull up and stay; there's a flat fee of a quid for parking all day.

And wandering over the dunes, who wouldn't die for the view: an endless estate of beach, the sea

kept out of the bay by the dam-wall of the sky.

Notice the sign, with details of last year's high tides.

Walk on, drawn to the shipwreck, a mirage of masts a mile or so out, seemingly true and intact

but scuttled to serve as a target, and fixed on by eyeballs staring from bird-hides lining the coast.

The vast, weather-washed, cornerless state of our mind begins on the Hard; the Crown lays claim to the shore

between low tide and dry land, the country of sand, but the moon is law. Take what you came here to find.

Stranger, the ticket you bought for a pound stays locked in the car, like a butterfly trapped under glass;

stamped with the time, it tells us how taken you are, how carried away by now, how deep and how far.

Simon Armitage

- Phenomenal Woman
Maya Angelou
 - Still I Rise
Maya Angelou
 - The Road Not Taken
Robert Frost
 - If You Forget Me
Pablo Neruda
 - Dreams
Langston Hughes
 - Annabel Lee
Edgar Allan Poe
 - Caged Bird
Maya Angelou
- Famous Poems

Here on the Hard

What is the register of the first two lines?

- A. Colloquial
- B. Formal
- C. Elevated.

What is the effect of the narrative voice?

- A. Engaged and personal.
- B. Detached
- C. Mysterious

The flow of the lines is created by which device?

- A. Rhyming Couplets
- B. Caesura.
- C. Enjambement.

What image is used in ' The vast, weather-washed....
Begins on the hard'

- A. Metaphor
 - B. Simile
 - C. Antithesis.
- A. Ironic
 - B. Reflective
 - C. Angry

How would you best describe the tone of the poem?

I come from a beautiful place
 Where girls cannot go to school
 There you are told what to believe
 And even young boys must grow beards.
 I come from a great old forest
 I think it is now a field
 And the people I once knew
 Are not there now.
 We can all be refugees
 Nobody is safe,
 All it takes is a mad leader
 Or no rain to bring forth food,
 We can all be refugees
 We can all be told to go,
 We can be hated by someone
 For being someone.
 I come from a beautiful place
 Where the valley floods each year
 And each year the hurricane tells us
 That we must keep moving on.
 I come from an ancient place
 All my family were born there
 And I would like to go there
 But I really want to live.
 I come from a sunny, sandy place
 Where tourists go to darken skin
 And dealers like to sell guns there
 I just can't tell you what's the price.
 I am told I have no country now
 I am told I am a lie
 I am told that modern history books
 May forget my name.
 We can all be refugees
 Sometimes it only takes a day,
 Sometimes it only takes a handshake
 Or a paper that is signed.
 We all came from refugees
 Nobody simply just appeared,
 Nobody's here without a struggle,
 And why should we live in fear
 Of the weather or the troubles?
 We all came here from somewhere.

We Refugees

I come from a musical place
 Where they shoot me for my song
 And my brother has been tortured
 By my brother in my land.
 I come from a beautiful place
 Where they hate my shade of skin
 They don't like the way I pray
 And they ban free poetry.

We Refugees

What is the effect of the musical rhythm of the poem? A. Creates a feeling of doom.

B. Creates a feeling of hopefulness and

optimism.

C. Creates a feeling of monotony.

The homeland of the refugee is?

A. totalitarian and repressive.

B. Democratic.

C. Communist.

How many examples of Anaphora can you find?

A. 3. B. 2. C. 5

What is the tone of the poem?

A. Pessimistic.

B. Hopeful.

C. Resigned

What is the message of the poem?

A. Refugees should integrate.

B. Refugees should go back to their

homeland.

C. We are all potentially refugees.

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POEM

War Photographer

In his dark room he is finally alone

with spools of suffering set out in ordered rows,

The only light is red and softly glows,

as though this were a church and he

a priest preparing to intone a Mass.

Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh. All flesh is grass.

He has a job to do. Solutions slip in trays

beneath his hands, which did not tremble then

though seem to now. Rural England. Home again

to ordinary pain which simple weather can dispel,

to fields which don't explode beneath the feet

of running children in a nightmare heat.

Something is happening. A stranger's features

faintly start to twist before his eyes,

a half-formed ghost. He remembers the cries

of this man's wife, how he sought approval

without words to do what someone must

and how the blood stained into foreign dust.

A hundred agonies in black and white

from which his editor will pick out five or six

for Sunday's supplement. The reader's eyeballs prick

with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers.

From the aeroplane he stares impassively at where

he earns his living and they do not care.

Carol Ann Duffy

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Multiple Choice Questions

War Photographer

What does the rhyme scheme add to the poem?

- A. A sense of crisis.
- B. Tragic resignation.
- C. A child like innocence.

is 'The only light is red and softly glows.....a mass'.

- A. Simile,
- B. Metaphor
- C. Oxymoron

How would you describe the imagery in the poem?

- A. Violent.
- B. Pastoral
- C. Supernatural.

What is the attitude of the viewers of the photographs?

- A. Revision.
- B. Sentimental Indifference.
- C. Anger.

How many Caesuras can you find?

- A. 1, B. 2, C. 3