

Weekly Poem Exemplars

Burke/English

Overview **Bold-faced words** show the writer moving beyond summary and into analysis or at least close observation of the writer's craft and the poem's meaning. Each response has a slightly different emphasis than the others (e.g., the personal connections of Fernandez and Perez versus the focus on craft and language in Lescher and deJesus)

When I started reading this poem I thought it was going to be dumb and have no meaning to me. However, I was proven wrong. I love poems that are written with mystery like this one. **The author doesn't straight out tell you** what is going on, or what exactly he's feeling. **The room in between the lines** of this poem is made for your brain cells to think and try to comprehend what the author is writing to you. There were many lines in this poem I didn't understand, but that's why I loved it. **The wording was so precisely done** it was interesting, and you had your own individual picture in your mind about what exactly was going on. I'm a fan of sad poems, stories, and songs. They always make your life seem so much better and this poem actually made me happily sad! **At the last line in the poem, my stomach dropped because I realized** the author was talking about a 4-year-old's death, and then **I loved the poem because** it brought me emotion and an idea for me to write in a new style.

A boy, the eldest of his brothers or sisters, lost someone close to him. **I know this because** his father was crying and when he entered his house all of these people started telling him that they were sorry. **This reminds me of** when my grandpa died. When I got home from school just like this boy, my dad was crying. I went inside and all these people told me they were sorry. I was the youngest of my brothers, but I was the closest to my grandfather. I remember seeing him in his coffin really pale just like this kid.

The words *mid-term break* could mean something broke in the middle. **When they mention the baby**, he is the smallest and the kid telling the story is the oldest. There was a break in the middle by most likely his brother was only 4.

This was a depressing poem. This was about a little boy who died. **"4 foot box, a foot every year,"** The child must have been hit by a car. It says **"The bumper knocked him clear."** All the family members gave their sorrows to the eldest brother who just got out of school. The eldest wasn't in school for long, only 6 weeks.

I have a younger brother who is 4 and he is "my baby." The favorite one. **If something like this happened to him I would be** in shock and be EXTREMELY sad! **I wonder how the mother** felt and how she reacted when she heard the news that her baby was dead!

It must be so hard when you're a child; I mean the child/baby just started learning how to have a conversation, colors, numbers, Alphabet. **He/she was just beginning to** understand the world and how we live.

When I first read this poem, I didn't understand some of the words or lines. **For example**, what is a spade? Or what is a toner's bag? **But, as I read it more, these things became clear**, not perfectly, but an educated idea what they are. I also had a dictionary handy to help. **My favorite line is** when he gives his father the milk and **"He straightened up to drink it wand fell to right away."** **It shows** how hard the work is and **it's a strong picture** in your mind because everyone has done it. **He ends the poem greatly. He uses the second line as the second to last also.** He says that he isn't going to dig, he's going to write and they are similar. **The spade or shovel is like the pen; it's the one tool you use to complete the work.**