

The video about authorial choices in Wislawa Szymborska's "We knew the World Backwards and Forwards" helped my understanding of poetry and about the effect of authorial choices in the way that almost anything, from seemingly simple punctuation to word choice can have a decision that was made to enhance the meaning of said poem. For example, the title of the poem "We knew the World backwards and Forwards" is printed with an ellipsis at the end, which seems like it wouldn't mean anything, but it in fact enhances the meaning of the poem by acting like an unfinished thought. This is in turn followed up by the first stanza being the same as the title, symbolizing that the unanswered title is in the process of being finished. Also, the poem uses irony to create contrast between how the world is both hard and easy, as well as small and big, yet can be categorized by the same things. Szymborska uses this in many of her poems to illustrate important and heavy topics with light and reflective words, which we can use to enhance the meaning of poetry because we can notice patterns in certain artists' work and we can connect their other poems to the one we choose to study. In the end, it helps my study of poetry by making me focus and think about small things I wouldn't really think about on my first read-through of said poetry.