

Unit # 9

Sunshine After Rain

~Brenda Winders

Paraphrasing:

Original:

One day when I was young, I heard a knock at my door.

It sounded familiar, like I had heard it before.

Paraphrase:

When I was young, I heard a knock that seemed strangely recognizable, as though it wasn't the first time.

Original:

I opened the door, and to my surprise,

There stood a young lady with blond hair and brown eyes.

Paraphrase:

I opened the door and was startled to find a young woman with blonde hair and brown eyes standing there.

Original:

She said, "I have the answers; are you ready to play?"

So I grabbed my money and I said okay.

Paraphrase:

She offered me the solutions I was looking for, asking if I was ready to join her, so I took my money and agreed.

Original:

There were the answers that I had always sought.

Liquids, pills, and powders, and I bought and bought.

Paraphrase:

These so-called "answers" came in the form of liquids, pills, and powders, and I couldn't stop purchasing them.

Original:

Then one day, my friend suddenly changed.

Her face became ugly, calloused, and deranged.

Paraphrase:

But one day, the woman transformed, her appearance becoming harsh, distorted, and cruel.

Original:

She grabbed my hand and we tore through the town.

My loved ones and friends could only watch and frown.

Paraphrase:

She pulled me along as we recklessly roamed the town, while my friends and family watched in dismay.

Original:

She kept whispering something I could only guess.

It sounded like she was repeating, "Yes, Yes, Yes."

Paraphrase:

She kept murmuring something I couldn't fully understand, but it sounded like a constant "Yes, Yes, Yes."

Original:

I thought of my family, oh what a mess,
But all I heard was screaming, "Yes, Yes, Yes."

Paraphrase:

I thought of the chaos I'd caused my family, yet the only thing that filled my mind was her endless "Yes, Yes, Yes."

Original:

I had to find help; I was at my wits' end.
I had lost my child, my family, and my friends.

Paraphrase:

Desperation set in as I realized I needed help, having lost everything—my child, family, and friends.

Original:

I said, "God are you there? Can you help me, please?"
A sudden peace came over me and I fell to my knees.

Paraphrase:

I cried out to God, asking if He could save me. Instantly, I felt a calming peace, and I sank to my knees.

Original:

I said, "God, I'm not worth it; I feel like a jerk."
He said, "Suit up and show up; it's time to go to work."

Paraphrase:

I confessed to God that I felt worthless and ashamed, but He responded, telling me to get ready and take action.

Original:

So I am here to tell you in this little rhyme.

Life keeps getting better one day at a time.

Paraphrase:

Now I'm here sharing this story, reminding you that life improves gradually, one step at a time.

Original:

So when you think you are going insane.

There's always sunshine after the rain.

Paraphrase:

When you feel like you're losing control, remember that better days—like sunshine after rain—are always ahead.

This poem metaphorically portrays the struggle of addiction and the hope of recovery, using vivid imagery to illustrate the journey from darkness to light.

Poetic Devices

The poem "Sunshine After Rain" by Brenda Winders employs several types of figurative language to convey its deeper meanings. Here are the main types used:

Metaphor:

The “young lady” represents addiction or substance abuse. She is not literally a person but a metaphor for the allure and deceit of substances that initially seem like solutions.

“Liquids, pills, and powders” symbolize the tangible forms of addiction.

"Sunshine after the rain" is a metaphor for hope and recovery that follows the hardships and struggles in life, particularly addiction.

Personification:

The young lady (addiction) is personified, given human characteristics, as she speaks, changes her appearance, and leads the narrator through the town.

The phrases like "whispering something" and "Yes, Yes, Yes" give addiction a voice, showing its deceptive and controlling nature.

Imagery:

Visual imagery is used when describing the young lady: "blond hair and brown eyes," and later when her face becomes “ugly, calloused, and deranged,” creating vivid pictures in the reader's mind.

The imagery of being dragged through town while “loved ones and friends could only watch and frown” paints a picture of isolation and helplessness in addiction.

The final image of "sunshine after the rain" evokes a bright, hopeful scene after turmoil.

Symbolism:

"Liquids, pills, and powders" symbolize addictive substances that offer temporary escape but lead to destruction.

The phrase "Suit up and show up" symbolizes the readiness and determination needed to overcome addiction and face life's challenges.

Alliteration:

"Liquids, pills, and powders" (repetition of the 'p' sound).

“Sunshine after the rain” (repetition of the ‘s’ sound).

Repetition:

The word “Yes, Yes, Yes” is repeated to emphasize the constant, overwhelming allure of addiction and how it drowns out the narrator's rational thoughts and concerns.

Rhyme:

The poem follows a consistent rhyme scheme (AA BB), which adds a lyrical and rhythmic quality to the piece, making it more memorable and reflective of the cyclical nature of addiction and recovery.

This figurative language helps convey the complexity of addiction and the process of recovery in a vivid, emotional way.

Unit #9

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~Brenda Winders

Comprehension:

1. How does the title "Sunshine After the Rain" encapsulate the central message of the poem?

The title suggests that after difficult and dark times, symbolized by the rain, there is hope and recovery, symbolized by sunshine. It reflects the journey from addiction (the rain) to healing and redemption (the sunshine). The poem emphasizes that even after hardship, things can improve if you seek help and take things step by step.

2. Identify the key themes.

Addiction: The poem explores the allure, dangers, and destructive power of substance abuse.

Loss: The narrator loses family, friends, and a sense of self due to addiction.

Hope and Redemption: There's a message of hope, as the narrator finds peace through faith and a second chance at life.

Recovery: The idea that life can improve "one day at a time" points to the long but possible road to recovery.

3. What do you infer about the narrator's initial response to the young lady who came to their door?

The narrator is initially intrigued and receptive to the young lady, seeing her as someone who has the "answers" to their problems. This shows that the narrator was vulnerable and perhaps desperate for solutions, which led to their susceptibility to substance abuse.

4. What might the poet be referring to in "liquids, pills, and powders"?

The "liquids, pills, and powders" represent various forms of drugs or substances that people might use in an attempt to escape reality or deal with pain. These symbolize addiction and the false promise of relief they offer.

5. What were the consequences of the narrator's choice to take drugs?

The consequences were devastating. The narrator lost their child, family, and friends. The addiction also caused them to feel lost and disconnected from their loved ones, and it ultimately led to a personal crisis where they had to seek help from God.

6. Explore the significance of the repeated word "Yes" in the poem. What could it symbolize?

The word "Yes" could symbolize the constant temptation and allure of addiction. It represents how the addiction keeps pushing the narrator to keep going, despite the negative consequences, and how it overrides any hesitation or rational thinking. It also symbolizes the controlling, overpowering nature of addiction.

7. Pick out some of the literary devices used in the poem.

Symbolism: The young lady symbolizes addiction, and "liquids, pills, and powders" represent the substances.

Metaphor: "Sunshine after the rain" is a metaphor for hope and redemption after going through dark and difficult times.

Repetition: The word "Yes" is repeated to emphasize the power of addiction.

Alliteration: "Liquids, pills, and powders" is an example of alliteration.

8. Do you agree with the idea that "life keeps getting better one day at a time"? Why or why not?

This is a matter of personal perspective. Some may agree because taking small steps and focusing on daily improvement can lead to long-term change, particularly in recovery or healing processes. Others may disagree, feeling that improvement isn't always linear or guaranteed.

9. How does the poem address the theme of redemption or second chances? Do you know someone who turned a new leaf and changed his/her life?

The poem addresses redemption by showing how the narrator finds peace and a path to recovery through faith after hitting rock bottom. It emphasizes that no matter how far someone falls, they can still find a way to rebuild their life. Many people know someone who has turned their life around, whether through overcoming addiction, making better life choices, or seeking help and support during hard times. These stories reflect the poem's message that change is possible with effort and support.

~The poem's portrayal of redemption is universal, suggesting that everyone deserves a second chance to change their lives for the better.

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