

"On Poverty" Paper 1 Sample response #1

The text is about poverty and what a human living in poverty undergoes. It is directed to the rich people or people who are wealthier to tell them, show them what exactly poverty is like. It says poverty is "dirty, smelly with no proper underwear on and with the stench of my rotting teeth near you." It is a hard life as we understand through these lines. The author tells the audience, "Put yourself in my dirty, worn out, ill-fitting shoes and hear me." She tells the audience to listen to her, to think about her position in poverty. The purpose of this text is to make people aware of the people in poverty.

From line 5 onwards, the writer, Jo Goodwin Parker explains what kind of life a person leads when in poverty. It is living in dirty mattresses, as money has to be saved to buy diapers. It is living in a smell of urine, sour milk, spoiling food. The writer goes on to tell where these smells come from. It is because of the rotting garbage, refrigerator that is not working. The author then goes on explaining poverty and relating it to dirt. She says poverty is washing dishes with no soap as you need money to buy soap but money has to be saved for the baby's diapers. Next she thinks about poverty in terms of staying up all night, insects in food, all over the place, hoping that it never rains, as baby's diapers won't dry, seeing your children with runny noses forever. Because of all these, you ask help. She also explains that getting help is not easy as you have to tell the whole story over and over to many people and explaining the shame of poverty is never any easier at the next place. At last she tells the readers to look at other people like me with an angry heart, anger that will help you and help me.

The writer uses the text in the form of present tense. This focuses the audience on the current situation, gripping more attention. The whole text is in direct speech. For example: "You ask me what is poverty? Listen to me. Here I am, dirty, smelly and with no proper underwear on and with the stench of my rotting teeth near you." This line in the direct speech has more impact on the audience. It brings the audiences a clear image of poverty. This use of direct speech, present tense directed right at the audience is powerful in this text.

The stylistic device of personification is used throughout the text. Poverty is personified as dirt, asking for help, hoping that it doesn't rain, staying up all night, cooling without food and cleaning without soap. Other devices like juxtaposition and simile are also used. Juxtaposition is used when she says, "poverty is dirt," and then tells "clean clothes coming from clean house." The connotation is literal. The writer tells us everything about the conditions of living in poverty, the outcomes of living in poverty. She does not represent the situation in a symbolic way.

This text creates a mood of sympathy toward the poor people living and creates a feeling of sympathy by telling the audience about the situation a person is in when asking for help. The writer shares his experience with creates this mood.

The text is well structured as he first tells what poverty is like and then moves on telling about its effects and outcomes. Therefore this text has a great impact on its audience and tells them to consider others in poverty like her.