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Period 6

Poem reflection

I read the poem “How to be a Poet” by Wendell Berry. And I found that I had mixed feelings about it. I’ve never felt a strong pull towards poetry for it is not one of my preferred literary subjects, but I’m able to try to analyze and reflect on poems to absorb and authors’ meaning or purpose in writing the poem. Sometimes I have a harder time understanding poems because I’m unable to empathize or sympathize with them. I find having this problem more with poems than books, short stories and most other things. And I think this is because poems are more abstract and don’t always deliver a clear message, so if i’m not able to understand what the poet is talking about or trying to express I’m unable to put myself in their situation. When reading “How to be a Poet” I felt that I didn't have much trouble understanding the author. I also noticed that in this particular poem it didn’t feel like that author was inviting the reader in to explain a part of himself, but more as him giving advice or kindly allowing others to understand his process and how he decides to work, offering it as an sugustion.

I believe that this poem is a good example of how one can provide solace in uncertain times because poets or anyone can get lost in time. This poem is more specifically focused as it talks about the process of writing poetry but I feel that it could also apply to other situations. For example the line “ than you have—inspiration, work, growing older, patience, for patience joins time to eternity.” When I read this it made me think of meditation or relaxation and how this is helpful when you want to calm down and stay focused on something, whether it’s writing a poem or something else. I also feel that the poem itself calmed me in a way because when reading it I felt as if I could picture myself following all the steps he lists. I also think that the experience the reader receives depends on the language used throughout the poem. I thought that the author did a good job of weaving the words with the message so that it felt cohesive. The thing I like about most poems is when the figurative language contributes and blends with the story or meaning instead of distracting from it. I think this poem was mostly well done in this way, for, there were only a few lines where I thought the writing sounded wrong.



-I feel like this is the picture I imagined when reading this poem