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The Most of It | Being Your own Advocate

Every story sitting in the library, or poem printed in a book was written for a purpose. Stories which can span several books, such as *War and Peace*, or others which come in the form of simple haikus, are all written to communicate the ideas of the author. Some of these ideas relate to real life events, while others are the work of sheer imagination. Intriguingly, these ideas, whether real-life or fictional, can be interpreted in different ways. The poem *The Most of It*, written by Robert Frost, is a work which strongly exemplifies this trait of misinterpretation. Frost conveys how events in a particular event in a person's life can be interpreted in different ways through the individual's understanding of these events, as well as any witness's understanding. Furthermore, the only way to accurately interpret and understand an event is to be your own advocate by analyzing the given information, and drawing a conclusion of your own.

This short poem begins with a character who "thought he kept the universe alone". Without further reading, it is evident that this character lacks a good foundation of understanding basic concepts, which could make this character prone to interpreting situations poorly. The poem continues as the protagonist travels to a "boulder-broken beach", and while facing these boulders, he would "cry out on life". The poem emphasizes that he has done this on a regular basis, but received nothing but his own echo in reply. This emphasis affirms that this character is expecting something to happen, and remains optimistic, despite the lack of response. Towards the end of this poem, a momentary turbulence in the ocean quickly appears, then dissipates as quickly as it came. There is no evidence that this character responded in any way to this event, which proves the normalcy of this happening. Further analysis of this appearance reveals the speaker's point of view, which appears to be radically different than the natural occurrence observed above.

The speaker in this poem is responsible for describing events which occur, therefore limiting the poem's view-point to the speaker's understanding. The speaker in this poem appears to have a limited understanding of the protagonist's goals and actions. Upon further analysis, the speaker appears as though he or she is a frequent visitor who observes the protagonist from a distance, and is not able to communicate with him or observe his body language. In addition to this disconnection with the protagonist, the poem lacks abundant details and imagery, hereby mentioning only important details or events. Hence, it is apparent that the speaker is either a "big-picture" person, or is a child lacking the capability to expound on what he or she is seeing. Towards the end of the poem, the speaker describes the turbulence in the water as that of "a great buck" momentarily rising out of the water, and splashing back into the waves. Since there isn't any evidence of any kind of supernatural occurrences, one can assume that the speaker's description is marred by the barrier of childhood, describing events from his or her limited understanding. Unfortunately, this interpretation is too marred to provide an accurate assessment of the situation, and therefore requires conclusive reasoning to successfully evaluate.

The event experienced by the protagonist, and the description from speaker present contradicting ideas. Although the poem presents a general sense of what is going on, an analysis of the details are not consistent. Both sides of the story must be evaluated in order to recreate what actually happened. Through this realization, we have captured the idea which Frost communicated, stating that one must be his or her own advocate, and not completely rely on what is presented. Frost stealthy points the reader toward looking at this poem from an analytical standpoint, which was thoroughly expounded upon in the preceding text. Although this poem concludes with a puzzling ending, it becomes clear that this poem can only be observed analytically, making the vague details become a little clearer.

In the poem *The Most of It*, Frost communicates the idea of being one's own advocate. As the layers of the poem were peeled back, two differing view-points of a single event were presented. As a reader, we were forced to draw our own conclusions, to recreate the scene in our minds, and understand what really happened took place. This revelation not only submerged the reader into a deeper understanding of the poem, but it also shed light on the idea Frost was trying communicate. Frost handed the analytical reader a valuable tool through expressing how experiences can, and

in some cases must, be evaluated in order to be fully understood. This moral is beautifully drawn by exposing this through the a real life event in the protagonist's life, making this tool seem as though it can be used in an individual's everyday life. In conclusion, this poem's details has been thoroughly analyzed. What do you think actually happened?