**Evening Hawk Analysis**

**By: Clara Bulhoes**

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**Title**

Evening Hawk (1985)

**Author**

Robert Penn Warren

**Background**

“Robert Penn Warren was born in Guthrie, Todd County, Kentucky, on April 24, 1905. During the summer of 1921, he spent six weeks in Citizens Military Training Corp, Fort Knox, Kentucky, where he published his first poem, "Prophecy", in *The Messkit*. He taught at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, Southwestern College, Memphis, Tennessee, University of Minnesota, Yale University, and Louisiana State University. While at LSU he founded and edited, along with Cleanth Brooks and Charles W. Pipkin, the literary quarterly, *The Southern Review*. As a poet, he was appointed the nation's first Poet Laureate, February 26, 1986. He published sixteen volumes of poetry and two—*Promises: Poems, 1954-1956* and *Now and Then: Poems, 1976-1978—*won Pulitzer Prizes. Warren published ten novels. One novel, *All the King's Men,* won a Pulitzer Prize. Two novels, *All the King's Men*and *Band of Angels* were made into [**movies**](http://www.robertpennwarren.com/at_the_movies.html). He was one of the leading representatives of the New Criticism and these works helped revolutionize the teaching of literature by bringing the New Criticism into general practice in America's college classrooms.” (*Robert Penn Warren*).

**Narration**

Third person narration

No Rhyming scheme= Free verse

**Place/Location**

Hawk gliding in the night, representing human affairs, i.e. causes of destruction within the world

**Summary**

This free verse poem elaborates on the theme of time through the preying hawk. This preying hawk is a figure of mankind, conveying the outcome of life; death. The imagery and diction within the poem remind readers how darkness continues to grow within the current world of destruction. The word *evening* remind readers hawks are preying birds and perform more deviously during the night. However, throughout the free verse, readers are exposed to the real symbolism of the hawk; a means to an end, an end to mankind's greed. Meanwhile, the scythe resembles the grim reaper; the figure always present during death.

**Shifts**

There are 5 shifts within the poem.

**Implications**

* Gloomy atmosphere
* Death imagery
* Sorrow
* Human destruction
* Guilt

**References**

1. Black and shadow= death
2. Leaking pipe in cellar= negative environment
3. Hawk= death
4. Tumultuous avalanche= light that contrasts the peace of death (Minam).
5. Cellar= recesses of our minds (Minam)
6. Scythe= Grim Reaper

**Analysis**

The evening hawk focuses increasingly on imagery and metaphors to determine its meaning. When the author writes, “wings dipping through,” the imagery of the hawk swooping to get his prey is conveyed. This combined with, “The hawk comes. His wing-Scythes down another day” reveals the imagery of death and destruction. It is clear mankind is the cause to this destruction when the line, “The crashless fall of stalks of Time” is stated. This explained, reveals mankind is the reason behind their faults. Mankind cannot change the outcome of their actions nor does the hawk care. The poem continues with dark imagery while explaining the hawk gliding through the unforgiven world, exploring the meaning behind the unforgiven world; guilt and sorrow. The references to the world;s axis reminds readers of the mechanical symbolism within the world emphasizing its sombers. The poem ends with a leaking pipe in the cellar leaving nothing but a gloomy ending and the hawk preying. (Evening Hawk Analysis).

Works Cited

"Evening Hawk Analysis." N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Nov. 2016. <http://bookstove.com/poetry/analysis-the-evening-hawk/>

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