Diving Into the Wreck

Free Write

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HSS

When I first read the poem, it felt like the author was not only talking about her experience, but also the poem contained a deeper meaning than its explicit description of diving into the wreck. However, the poem seemed to be very metaphorical. For example, a ladder in this poem represents something like a bridge between the world above water and below because we discussed in class that a ladder is an equipment used to climb and up and down.

However, it was still hard for me to grasp the idea of what these items truly mean to me. So, I decided to put her name on Google and looked through Wikipedia. Then, I was really happy to know that she was a feminist and defended lesbians. The fact that she was a feminist really helped me to understanding the poem. For example, to me, diving into the wreck symbolically represents the author trying to reflect the currently society in which sexism and inequality exist. The author begins the poem by describing her preparation before diving using diction that has really negative tone. For example, words such as “grave” , “absurd”, “awkward”, “alone” are used to portray her preparation. But why does she even try to dive into the wreck all alone dangerously? After knowing the fact that she was a feminist, it felt like she is diving into the ocean, which would symbolize comes across to me as this current world where sexism and inequality exist. She dives using a ladder. In this case, the ladder is used to act as a tunnel into the real world. She has to do it alone although it is very dangerous because she has to fight for herself with not much support from the outside world. Ladder is “innocent” unless it is not used. However, the ladder, in the context, is very needed and useful for crossing between two “worlds”

Next, she describes how it feels like to be in deep water in the 5th stanza. The way she portrays her experience of going down is somewhat scary and horrifying because as she dives deep in the ocean, the color of the ocean changes from blue, green, and eventually dark black. At some point, she even blacks out due to pressure and lack of air. To me, the process of the changing color represents how the author tries to fight with the society and sexism but the world is dark and hard to defend for her belief. This is clearly seen as she writes, “the sea is another story”, “the sea is not a question of power”. Definitely, “another story” tells us that the ladder is used to climb down into another place which is the real world. In the real world, she also has to learn everything by herself because she is a minority defending for woman’s rights. Also, she says that she has to learn to turn her body without force in the deep element. To me, the way she has to exert her force which can be considered as her ability to influence and spread her beliefs should be done non-violently.