

America

It looks like he's not too happy with his country.

Here the speaker gets more specific.

Maybe the speaker really hates himself.

It seems like the speaker wants us to focus on the human aspects of war.

Hundreds of thousands of Japanese people were killed.

Sadly we get the feeling that America is not about to listen.

Now this is a bit of a puzzle.

Now we get more questions from the speaker put to America.

In line 9 though we get the other side of the purity coin.

Maybe America as a whole should be more appreciative at least according to our speaker.

Leon Trotsky was a Russian political theorist and revolutionary.

All is not well in those important rooms.

The last great famine in India was the Bengal famine of 1943.

The speaker is trying another strategy here in his ongoing argument with his country.

Here he's using irony to make a point.

Luckily for the speaker he's perfect.

It's just all too much for the speaker.

Here the speaker reveals that he too was once inspired by America.

Now the speaker is looking for a way out of the argument he's having with America.

He was also at times a drug addict and once shot and killed his wife Joan Vollmer in a drunken game of William Tell.

The speaker wonders if America is being similarly sinister.

The speaker has a point.

In any case things aren't fully clear at this point.

Here are another two sentences smashed into one.

The imagery here is quite the departure from what has come earlier.

The speaker knows America so well that he doesn't have to read the paper to keep up with it, and in case you missed it that was yet another run-on sentence.

Our speaker goes back to his political sympathies for unions and laborers.

These lines also give us a nice little combo of anaphora and apostrophe.

Clearly the speaker is going against the grain when it comes to expectations of polite Americans.

We know that flowers don't bloom in a closed dark space.

More bad news for the speaker.

It's a turning point for him and this poem too.

Marx here is Karl Marx one of the founding thinkers of communist philosophy.

The practice was founded by none other than Sigmund Freud.

The Lord's Prayer is being used to represent any form of organized religion.

He's into a less formal kind of spirituality.

In this line we get a sense of the speaker's family history and it's definitely not a happy one.

The speaker reminds us whom he's addressing.

One of these things is reading Time magazine.

It looks like even the speaker himself is not immune from his own criticism.

He reads the magazines too.

Giving an inanimate object human abilities like this is called personification.

It seems that the speaker feels guilty about his reading habits.

It's just that it's so serious. It almost seems to be nagging him. The magazine is a kind of reminder of the way he should be behaving in society. He's the only non-serious one.

We understand that he also includes himself when he uses that word.

That makes us see the poem as not just a laundry list of criticisms but also a kind of pep talk.

The rise of Asia is not just an abstract political threat to a country.

The speaker says he hasn't got a chinaman's chance which is a racist expression that was used in the wayback days when something seemed impossible.

The speaker once again treats himself like an actual country.

The speaker goes back and forth between his own possessions and his country's possessions here in a way that makes us ask where does the speaker stop and his country begin.

The speaker says that they're in the nation's and his flowerpots which seems like a pretty fixed unmoving position to be in.

Now the speaker shifts his focus overseas, or at least the speaker's America is.

In 1960 John F. Kennedy became the first Catholic to be elected president.

America's mood affects the speaker's ability to write.

In this simile he's making these bits of poetry just like Henry Ford whose company developed the assembly line in order to crank out automobiles with greater efficiency and consistency.

Poetry's not something that can be spat out of a factory and pushed into the economy.

Tom Mooney was a labor activist and a member of the Wobblies.

They were on one side of the Spanish Civil War which lasted from 1936 to 1939.

Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were two Italian immigrants who were arrested in 1920 for robbery and murder.

The Scottsboro boys were nine African-American men who were arrested on suspicion of raping two white women on a train.

The speaker tells us how great the communist party was in 1835 which is a bit odd time-wise since we're reading this as written in 1956. Even this joyful memory turns sour at the end.

The Cold War was a political standoff with the Soviet Union.

This is an interesting turning point in the poem.

Here we get deliberately bad grammar. It seems like this bad grammar is purposeful.

The speaker here seems to be poking more fun here. This just doesn't make sense. It's the kind of thing we might expect to hear from a delusional person.

The dumber these ideas are the dumber they literally sound. Her is after our cities now. This grammar is getting worse in a hurry. The paranoia of the lines also increases.

Here's a touchy line. Him. We still have the degenerated grammar. It goes along with the degenerate things that have been done in America's history. This is too much for the speaker. And. All he can do it utter a small cry for help. Her.

He wants you to know that this is no joke.

Things are becoming a bit clearer now.

He wants to be sure that this impression over the last few lines is accurate.

By the job perhaps the speaker means something more than just a 9-5.

The speaker tells us that he's not after any sort of regular job, he must be talking about some other kind of work.

Whatever job this speaker is taking up he seems wholly determined to see it through.

When will you summarize my poem you fucking assholes?