

"The Eagle"

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Alfred Lord Tennyson

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"The Eagle", shortest poem, has been written by A.L. Tennyson. Tennyson is one of the greatest poets of Victorian era. In this era, a movement called Romanticism became extremely popular within the literary society. It was the reaction to the previous Age of Reason among the culture. This poem is composed of only two stanzas, with three lines each. It is full of figurative language and deeper meaning. It is written in iambic tetrameter.

This poem contains simple concept but contains deeper meaning. It focuses on one eagle alone in the wild. Often literary scholars believe the poem is short to emphasize the deeper meaning in nature itself, that the reader has to find themselves. For example:-

He clasps the crag with crooked hands;

Close to the sun in lonely lands,

Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

In the first line, the eagle is atop a mountain, poised to strike. He is high up where no other animal or human can go. He is alone in his grandeur, with the sun and the bright blue sky forming the perfect background scenery. Tennyson uses in the first line alliteration (a repetition of similar sounds in the beginning of words such as clasps,

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Crag and crooked, to make emphasis and create a specific melody so that we can not breeze through these sounds; each hard 'c' makes the reader pause and enunciate. Again, in the second line, there is alliteration in the phrase 'lonely lands'. There is also hyperbole, which is an extreme exaggeration in the phrase 'close to the sun'.

The third line contains imagery which appeal to the five senses, that are extremely visual. Tennyson uses the color word 'azure' which literally means bright blue, and this blue sky is 'ringed' around the eagle. This creates a very majestic image. Picture looking up at this tall, rocky mountain.

The second stanza shows the only action of the eagle. Example for:-

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

The first and second line show that, as he watches from his high perch, the sea moves below him.

Then, in the final line, the eagle makes a grand dive towards the sea. The poem ends here, with the reader not quite sure why the eagle dived off his mountain roost.

In short, we see that ^{the} present poem, 'The Eagle', shows Tennyson's appreciation of nature. Tennyson wrote this poem to represent how Catholics were strong and could separate themselves from the English Government.