

***Death Town (tiffany)**

I think that this is an interesting way to approach the eeriness of death because the intimidation is found in noise instead of silence. I feel like the speaker is unsettled whenever they pause because they expect silence (a natural result of death) but are confronted with noise instead. It kind of creates a claustrophobic situation, like the speaker can't escape from something...And then there's the "Its" in the second line. It seems as if this should be a contraction, short for "it is", but instead it's taking on a possessive form, which could be an indicator of the day's noise. I'm not sure what this would do because I'm not sure of what that noise could be. It could be the lack of noise. It could be noise despite death as suggested early. Not sure.

Amendments

Death Town (craig)

This poem sounds as if the speaker is not fond of this noise that they hear in every pause. As the poem is titled as it is, the concept of a pause to me appears to be for a moment of silence, though it cannot be obtained in this poem. So one reading is that the death is actually the death of silence. If one considers living in a city and the constant noise of traffic, sirens, neighbors, dogs, or otherwise, any city could be death town in that light. Also, one could consider the pauses as actual moments of silence, though if a person is in mourning, the last thing they may need is solitude and silence. In this regard, if the speaker were a lonely widow, her pauses leading to the silence in her house may seem like nothing more than noise- a painful silence. The word "noise" makes the audible quality of whatever is happening unattractive, in any respect.

Death Town (abby)

Usually when one pauses there is a break in conversation, a silence. So to say that when they pause there is "noise" if we can use "its" in the contraction way for the second line, to say that is to call attention to the fact that there is no silence- when you stop talking, someone else somewhere IS talking still. To bring "death" into it, as the title of the poem suggests, is to compare life to conversation. Even when someone stops talking, even if it is forever (in death), there is always someone else to fill the silence. Bringing an "I" into it, makes it more personal, and gives a dual meaning to the pause—death of another, and reflection upon death by the speaker. The speaker pauses for reflection, and hears only noise, which suggests an inability to concentrate or truly understand death, either of a friend or in a more universal way.

Death Town (tom)

There is also seems to be this sense of there being no relief or peace. Perhaps this is the feeling one gets when a loved one has died and though you try to sit and clear your thoughts you just can't. Your mind is too crowded with grief, with noise. I don't really understand the Its either, I will add however that this could be referring to the pause as well as to day. It seems to make more sense that the Its is referring to the pause being the noise rather than the day. Like I said earlier the pause is the pausing to think and yet the thought is all discombobulated noise.

Death Town (monte)

I read that noise is the distraction of the day, and whenever you pause, you are taken in by that distraction. That distraction is death. Maybe.

Death Town (mike)

This day whenever I pause.

Its noise.

What is important about this day, there is only one day we truly die. This day, when, pause, the progression of time is critical with noise being the constant, the pressing, the intimate. Noises formless nature makes it intimate and all encompassing. The sound of silence and nothingness is far more penetrating than a tangible object. Only through movement and progression can the noise be avoided, not necessarily stopped but avoided, like death.

Death Town Amendment: (matt)

I see the “its noise” in the poem to actually be the noise of Death itself. Death is often personified and speaks (ALL IN CAPS), so I don’t feel Death is necessarily something associated with silence. There is always the notion of Death “whispering,” and this poem certainly seems to convey the sense that Death is nearby (perhaps all around). I certainly have difficulty thinking of anything besides Death as the “its” for it’s the subject of the poem. And the idea of hearing Death everywhere when there should be no sound really adds to the creep factor of the poem, especially since the sound of Death is left to the reader.

Death Town (martin)

A very dramatic and vague title for a very tight, few words poem. The structure of the poem adds to a claustrophobic situation. It should be noted that when poets write shorter poems like this, it forces the reader to center his or her attention on the few words in the poem rather than stretch the attention over a longer poem. The first time I read the poem I saw “It’s” not “its”. Then we have the pronoun “it” lacking a definite referent. I believe under that read with “It’s” the it is a general it, like there is noise in the background. The possessive “its” could refer back to Death or the day’s noise. Death’s noise is interesting because death is very silent to most of us. Perhaps it is a despairing message of how even in death the speaker will hear noise, like during the day whenever the speaker tries to die to the rest of the world and pause, there’s still the noise of the day.

Death Town (marina)

This poem is way too short for me to be able to go on forever... so I am going to pay attention to the caesura at the end of the first line – “whenever I pause” (pause) - I think that’s just great because that is ironic and serves as a great example of punctuation working with the meaning of the poem. Whenever the speaker pauses from something, they can hear noise, which is ambiguously contradictory, yet only in the world of connotations.

Death Town: (courtney)

A pause is a stop in doing something, a rest. A rest is a musical figure—a pause in music. Noise can be music, just as death can be the moment a person pauses in life to take a “rest”—as in the eternal rest. Noise can relate to the lamentations of the deceased’s mourners, or it can in this case be the absence of noise, the stillness of death either by the person who is taking a rest, or the people hearing of it.

Death Town (casey)

This day whenever I pause.

Its noise.

What is important about this day, there is only one day we truly die. This day, when, pause, the progression of time is critical with noise being the constant, the pressing, the intimate. Noises formless nature makes it intimate and all encompassing. The sound of silence and nothingness is far more penetrating than a tangible object. Only through movement and progression can the noise be avoided, not necessarily stopped but avoided, like death.

Death Town (Allison)

Gosh this was a hard poem. Because it is so short, there are so many different things it could be alluding to. I like the idea of unsettling silence in the analysis and I definitely don't know what the noise could be for sure. My thought was that it was like a heartbeat and whenever somebody's heart pauses and stops making noise, the person (more than likely) dies. I'm glad the fact that the word is "its" and not "it's" is mentioned. I don't really know what else to say. I think the analysis was good for how hard the poem is.