

## **Luck Town**

**(Courtney)**

This poem alludes to the desperation of parents trying to provide for a family. It plays off of an almost biblical scene of a man preparing to kill his child for the “greater good”. “Digging a hole” is the first line, which ties into “A man struck gold”, the last line. These lines bring the poem in a circular path, more to the topic of mining. A miner digs for riches, to support himself and his family, if he has one. The man in this poem is digging to bury his child, the support his family. Perhaps he is forcing his child to work under harsh circumstances, to provide extra funds for the family (“food for his aged mother”). Or, perhaps he is making his son go to school to get an education and provide for the family once he is able. The act of simply burying his son alive wouldn’t provide any food for the mother, unless they were waiting for him to die to eat him alive, or he would attract a hungry beast that could be killed from secrecy and taken home for a meal. In any way, the man somehow gets what he is looking for—strikes gold, by burying his son, which implies that he is able to get that food he is needing to get.

### *Amendments*

Luck Town (abby)

There is an interesting play off of the future vs. past in this poem. Because the man is burying his son in order to save his mother, he is, in essence, ruining the future to save the past. “Digging a hole” also seems like that “it’s your own grave you’re digging” image which has naught to do with “luck.”

Luck Town (craig)

This poem draws on an interesting image and confusing question: how can a man feed one person by burying their child? One possible read can be made by reorganizing the line breaks to read “digging a hole to bury his child, alive so that he could buy food for his aged mother- one day, a man struck gold.” In this light, the poem is much less morbid, though it does not lose the depressing quality. It is a trade off of one life for another in any rate, though in this way the father seems less guilty. Perhaps he is a grave digger by trade and must actually bury his own son to buy food for himself and the rest of his family. Also, it is interesting to note the trade off of youth for sustenance for the young; the natural inclination is the reversal of this concept: protect the young by sacrificing the aged. I wonder, though, if it is the man’s mother or his wife; the aging mother of the boy buried (though not necessarily buried alive). I would hope that a man did not strike gold burying a child alive, though this would be an accurate depiction of luck and an interesting way of stating that luck (and financial success) does not always favor good people- just lucky people.

Luck Town (tiffany)

Courtney and I have the same suppositions as to the allusions of this poem - "This poem alludes to the desperation of parents trying to provide for a family." I never would have

put the mining allusions together, but I can really see the ties between "digging", "gold" and putting someone or something into the ground (or under it). However, I disagree with the statement "the act of simply burying his son alive wouldn't provide any food for the mother, unless they were waiting for him to die to eat him alive, or he would attract a hungry beast...". If taken in the literal sense that we're dealing with a father who is putting his lineage into the ground during a time of depression, killing off one member of the family would mean one less mouth to feed, and, thus, the preservation of the mother. That's the allusion that came to me first.

Luck Town (tom)

There is clearly an allusion to the Beverly Hillbilly's here, okay maybe not. There is a great sense of irony in this poem with the finding gold while going to bury a child alive out of necessity. Yet I think there is also a warning of sorts here. The line One day jumps out at me. It's as if the warning is to not act too rashly for one day could change everything. Indeed one day is really all we ever have and in one day or entire life can be altered for good or bad, permanently.

Luck Town (monte)

The bit about luring in the beast to get food I think is a bit too much. It is ironic that someone would sacrifice a young child in order to save an old woman. I think that this poem is talking about how people often do things quite illogically to try and solve their problems, or even to do good. The point is that this person is digging a hole (kinda cliché) and that he is killing his child to save his old mother. The last two lines simply state that sometimes, we get lucky and it works out. I would say that it was intentionally written to be read that it does not normally turn out this way, because it is 'a' man and not 'the' man.

Luck Town (mike)

Diggin a hole the man struck gold. Without the second line the poem loses its dark meaning. Why would burying his child give food to his aged mother. Such an act requires such determination that other options would surely be viable. The reader assumes that once the gold was found that the man returned home rich baby in hand. What if the man continued on, like there was no gold.

Luck Town Amendment: (matt)

One other thing that should be looked at in this poem is the fact that the man is burying his child to feed his "aged mother." The man has made a choice between his elderly mom and his young child and he has chosen his mom. It is an example of the aged preying on the young. Children usually represent the future, so metaphorically the man is selling out his future (the child) to temporarily sate his past (the old mother). This ties into the idea of gambling that is often associated with "Luck," in that the man's ravenous past might be a gambling debt. It also serves as the short-sightedness of gambling, for the child has its whole life ahead of it while the mother "aged" and has already lived much of hers.

Luck Town (martin)

A huge contrast lies between the title and the body of the poem. Burying your child alive and so much death and hunger does not sound like a lucky existence. This contrast plays

into irony as the poem goes on, since the death of a child could mean luck for the parents who get compensation for it. Striking gold goes well with the digging through the ground the poem does. That is the darker read of it. It also makes sense that the father and child are trying to get lucky and strike gold, but the child is a “child” so very young. He is probably being put to work that is far too hard for him to do, digging and digging and burying himself alive. Then one day, a man struck gold. “A” man, not “the” man in the poem necessarily. This feeds off the irony and the way Carson plays with her readers’ insights.

Luck Town (marina)

This poem strikes me as just a little creepy. Someone is trying to burry their child alive, which may be figurative or it may be taken for real. In the third line, the “he” could be referring to either the child if he is male or the father, although the genders of pretty much everyone, save the mother, are extremely ambiguous, for perhaps the mother is digging the hole to burry some behated man’s child alive and so on and so forth. Then there is also “a man” in the last line, who could be the afore referred to “he” or a different person, which kind of makes this whole town just a tad bit confusing.

Luck Town: (courtney)

I want to add that this could also be a reference to actually mining for gold, as in a man sending his child out and showing the child how to become a miner in order to bring more income to the family. Miners often died from black lung and other diseases from being underground, which could relate to burying the child alive. If the man found gold when he was digging, to show his child how to do it, he struck it rich and obviously even more so because the child didn’t need to work to provide extra income any more.

Luck Town (casey)

Diggin a hole the man struck gold. Without the second line the poem loses its dark meaning. Why would burying his child give food to his aged mother. Such an act requires such determination that other options would surely be viable. The reader assumes that once the gold was found that the man returned home rich baby in hand. What if the man continued on, like there was no gold.

Luck Town (Allison)

I liked the mention of Biblical reference (I think I make all of these poems into Biblical references, unfortunately...) I thought of God commanding Abraham to kill Isaac, and the gold that was struck was God telling Abraham to not kill his son. There is also the possibility that the mother in this poem is not the mother of the man, but the mother of the child (this seems unlikely though since the mother is aged.) I’m sure Carson is talking about a story that may have happened (in mythology or something else) and I would probably liked to have seen it addressed in the analysis. I agree that it sounds like the man is just trying to support his family and like the different reasons he could be burying his child alive. There is probably a specific instance or story Carson is alluding to though, although I myself don't know what it is either.

