

Wolf Town

(Krista)

The allusion I am picking up here is Native American and South American mythology. Bears, wolves, porcupine quills, salmon, eagles, and bone all come from mythologies in these traditions. Wolf is a trickster. Bears are power animals. Salmon is a life force. Eagles are wisdom. These are the only things I can think of, though I'm not sure where Tigers fits with this analysis. The venom in this poem makes me wonder if it isn't a curse being worked on the usurpers of America and others who have come in throughout history and wiped out various tribes and peoples. Then again, it ends on a strange note that seems to reverse the hatred of the poem, or work a more subtle anger on the "them" of the poem. Chanting and a shamanic kind of rhythm add to my concept of a curse.

Amendments

Wolf Town (craig)

The title of the poem made me think that everything mentioned in the poem was said in reference to wolves. The things mentioned seem like logical ways that a wolf can be killed. It is interesting to think about the amount of force needed to conquer a wolf physically. As a human, killing a wolf would be very difficult, though it is made a simple task by things as small and insignificant as tapeworms and even seeds accidentally blown in the ear could do so. However, it is interesting to note the line breaks; though it sounds like a passive prayer for a sort of predator (or as you mentioned from Native mythology, a trickster) to die naturally, though if each line is read on it own, it sounds like a command to kill the offenders. I do think this is a prayer, and I can see it in reference to Natives praying for the death of encroaching Europeans, though why would they want them to have very good ears; this implies that they would be much more difficult to kill. To be able to hear a cloud pass overhead is to be able to hear enemies approaching from far away. It seems to contradict the rest of the poem. Perhaps this is in reference to the ignorantly peaceful ways of many tribes during westward expansion when dealing with wolves.

Wolf Town (mike)

Why is let tigers given its own line. This poem is laid out like the food chain, stacked, interrelated, and violent. As Krista said all the animals but the tiger are of the Americas and combined are included in countless Native American myths and legends. The tiger on the top of the list and its foreign relationship to the other animals mentioned could make it possibly the intruding white man. Most importantly however who is them? And what perspective does the speaker see from where they can sit back and say let them kill.

Wolf Town (marina)

I have no idea what I am talking about, but I suppose that the equilibrium reference really clears a few things up in the poem. It feels like the speaker is addressing the society with regard to its complete disregard for nature and a destructive force that people can often be to all things not human, hence destroying all sorts of natural balances between the animal world, and causing a lot of problems that later on come back to haunt the

humanity, except it is not only too late, but people also refuse to actually take any real action against what has happened. Wolves are usually to be feared by the humans, but in truth, the society is the wolf, eating up the rest of the nature.

Wolf Town Amendment: (matt)

As for the Tigers reference, one could see them as perhaps playing on the misnomer "Indian" by including an actual Indian mythological creature (oh, and South American natives are Native Americans; no need for separate terminology). However, when I read this poem I just feel the bestial hatred of the speaker coming through. The speaker revels in the brute power of nature against "them," which feeds into a common cultural theme of the West in which the Wolf is a villainous, violent character full of hatred. But the Western conception of Wolf-as-symbol also notes that the Wolf has its own harsh code of honor. That is where I feel the last few lines fit in. The "them" are hated, but their wolf-like traits ("good ears") garner respect from the wolves and might lead to a change of opinion about their fate. It is as if the speaker suddenly learns some new revelation about "them" in the midst of this rant and quickly calms down.

Wolf Town (casey)

Why is let tigers given its own line. This poem is laid out like the food chain, stacked, interrelated, and violent. As Krista said all the animals but the tiger are of the Americas and combined are included in countless Native American myths and legends. The tiger on the top of the list and its foreign relationship to the other animals mentioned could make it possibly the intruding white man. Most importantly however who is them? And what perspective does the speaker see from where they can sit back and say let them kill.

Wolf Town (Allison)

Apparently, Wolftown is actually an organization dedicated to the preservation of wolves and horses. This would be really ironic, especially if the "them" Carson is referring to is wolves, and she is saying let all of these different animals kill the wolves. The way Carson has this poem punctuated is very different than how I read it and I would have liked to have seen it mentioned in the analysis. I can definitely see how Carson could be alluding to some form of Native American mythology. It sounds to me like Carson hates wolves almost (or some form of dog) because she mentions different kind of worms (like roundworms) and that whoever "they" are have very good sense of hearing, like a dog does. I'm not sure why she wants them to die so badly, but I think she is more listing ways animals can die, rather than it being a curse or mythological tale.

Wolf Town (abby)

I agree with the chant/usurpers of America read of this poem. The other, more petty way to take this is the outright hatred of dogs. Dogs are the lesser cousin of wolves, and are more affected by roundworms, heartworms, and tapeworms than any other animal. The problem with this is how absolutely ridiculous it would be... unless the dogs are a metaphor for humans in some way. That would be interesting.

Wolf Town (tom)

I can see the Native American allusion going on to some degree and your right the tigers do throw things off. More than this I sense a disharmony between humanity and nature

going on. I see the “them” as humanity and us being killed by our very own environment in a myriad of ways. It’s almost like Carson is saying we kill everything else in nature so why shouldn’t nature have its turn at killing us.

Wolf Town (tiffany)

This poem analysis was very much like the dragon vein one in that I learned quite a bit from Krista's analysis and suppositions. I had no idea that these animals represented such things in Native American and South American mythology. Very cool. Obviously, since I was clueless about these symbols, my interpretation of the poem was very different. But I really dig the idea that the repetition in this poem could possibly be suggestive of a chant or curse. Very cool.

Wolf Town (monte)

I think that though this poem is seemingly very violent with all the death and killing going on, that it is still very passive. The speaker is simply letting things happen... he is neither causing them nor preventing them. However, this does very much have a chant-like quality to it, and I could see how it would be like putting a curse on someone. Interesting information about it possibly being native American and cursing the usurpers.

Wolf Town (martin)

The most obvious quality of the poem is the chanting. Wolf Town sounds like a name of a town a Native American would come up with. This is one of the more rhythmic poems Carson has in the whole book, so this reference is probably important. I definitely feel a curse in the poem, but don’t think the last line means the curse is reversing hatred. To let somebody hear a cloud pass overhead might mean to warn them. I believe it means to let them know a curse is coming, so they can worry about it and be scared. The “kill kill kill” before this last line makes it hard to believe that Carson would reverse such strong hatred after all that energy spent on violence and passion.

Wolf Town: (courtney)

Good job picking up the chant-like rhythm of the poem. The animals definitely mean something in this poem—but what? It seems as though they are not just mythological beings, but they are creating a food chain that is feeding off of itself and going down the line. Tigers are killing something, bears are killing tigers, worms are killing the bears, porcupine quills are also killing the bears, I think, salmon poisoning is killing the porcupines, whatever tried to poison the salmon is cutting its tongue on bones and bleeding to death, and so forth. This could be a curse, because the cycle never ends and the animals just keep killing one another. At the end of the poem, it is almost as though a way for the killing cycle to be ended—the curse put to a stop. If the thing at the beginning of the poem (possibly a human) has “very good ears”, good enough to hear clouds, it will hear the tigers coming and get away.