

No Men Are Foreign

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The Summary

The poem 'No Men Are Foreign' begins and ends with the same line- 'Remember no men are strange, no countries foreign' as the poet wants to emphasize on the fact that all the people living on this Earth are the same and that we have created distinctions by erecting borders and fences, different languages, etc. While we are alive, we walk on the same Earth and upon our death, we will lie in our graves in the same earth. He draws another similarity that we all enjoy good food during peace and starve during war and in winter time. We all have similar hands which we use to do a lot of hard work. All of us have eyes which remain open when we are awake and close when we are asleep. He reminds the reader that whenever we hate someone, we cheat and hate ourselves. Also, when we pick up weapons against someone, we pollute the Earth and make it impure with the huge mounds of dead bodies strewn on it.

Literary Devices

Rhyme Scheme – The entire poem is written in free verse. There is no rhyme scheme in the poem.

The literary devices used are as follows –

Alliteration: The repetition of a consonant sound in two or more closely placed words is called alliteration. The instances of alliteration in the poem are -

- Stanza 1 - Body, breathes 'b' sound is repeated
- Stanza 2 - war's, winter 'w' sound is repeated

Metaphor

- Stanza 1 - Uniform refers to the military of different countries
- Stanza 2 - wars time is compared to the winter season

Repetition: It is used in the entire poem.

- 'Remember' word is repeated 5 times in this poem.
- 'Remember, no men are strange, no countries foreign' is repeated in stanza 1 and stanza 5

Enjambment - running lines of poetry from one line to the next without using any kind of punctuation to indicate a stop. Instances of enjambment in the poem are as follows -

- Stanza 1 - line 2, 3 and 4
- Stanza 2 - line 3 and 3
- Stanza 3 - line 1, 2, and 3
- Stanza 4 - line 1 and 2

- *Stanza 5 – Line 2 and 3*

Short questions:

1. "Beneath all uniforms....." What uniforms do you think the poet is speaking about?
2. What is the central idea of the poem 'No Men are Foreign'?
3. How does the poet suggest that basically everywhere the people are the same?
4. What does the poet tell us about 'the land our brothers walk upon'?
5. When do we defile the earth?