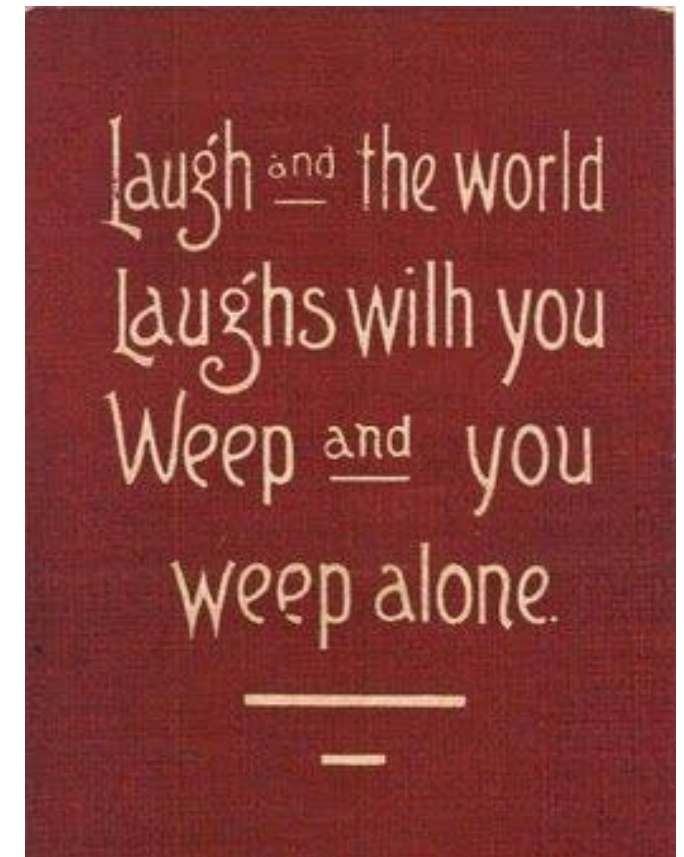
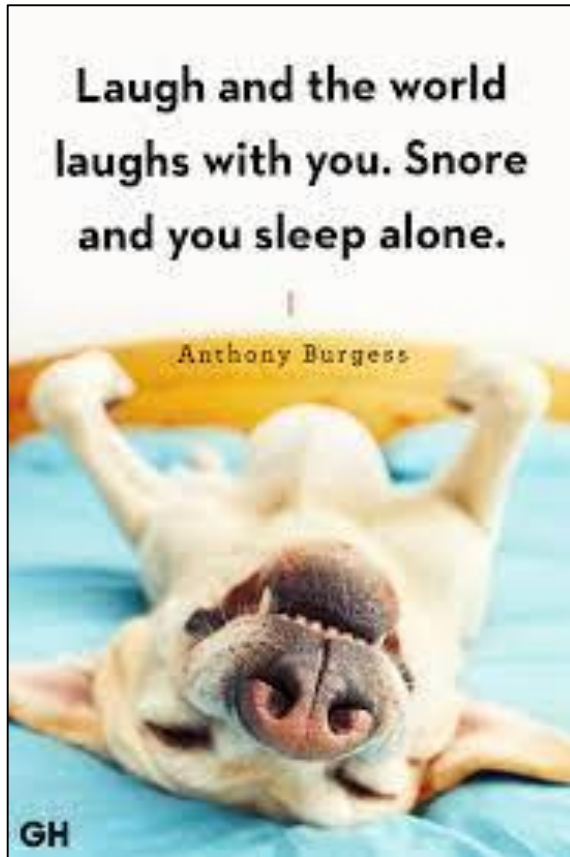


Solitude

Ella Wheeler Wilcox





**Discuss – What comment are these ‘observations’
making about the nature of humankind?**



The 'human condition' is universal

We easily share in each other's joys

*We are less likely to stick around in times
of pain*

DO YOU AGREE?



- 1850 – 1919
- Lived in Wisconsin, USA
- Writer, journalist, poet
- Started writing as a teenager
- First book published at 22
- Interested in spiritualism and observation of human behaviour

*“To sin by silence, when they should
protest, makes cowards of men.”*

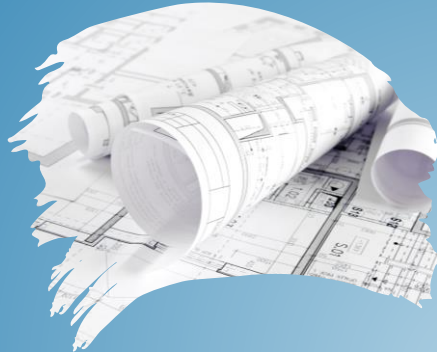
Ella Wheeler Wilcox



Discuss what you notice in the poem's



Title



Structure



Diction

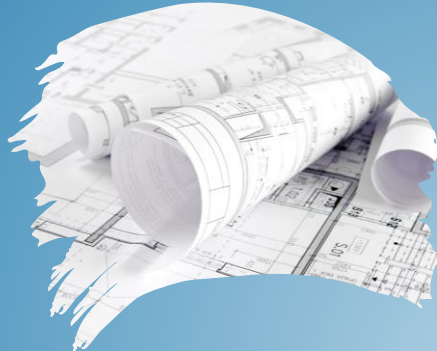


Tone

Discuss what you notice in the poem's



Title



Structure



Diction



Tone

Solitude

**Being alone but not
necessarily lonely**

**Depends on the
context in which it
is used**

**One word stands
on its own**

Discuss what you notice in the poem's

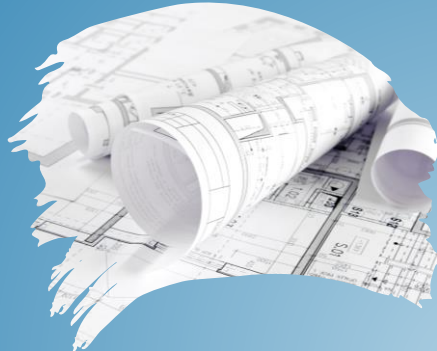


Title

Solitude
Being alone but not necessarily lonely

Depends on the context in which it is used

One word stands on its own



Structure

3 Octaves (8 lines)

a,b,c,b,d,e,f,e
Internal rhyme in line 3 and 7 of each stanza

Repeated 'But' as a volta to present the opposite



Diction



Tone

Laugh, and the world laughs with you; A
Weep, and you weep **alone**; B
For the sad old **earth** must borrow its **mirth**, C
But has trouble enough of its **own**. B
Sing, and the hills will answer; D
Sigh, it is lost on the **air**; E
The echoes **bound** to a joyful **sound**, F
But shrink from voicing **care**. E

Rejoice, and men will seek you; A
Grieve, and they turn and **go**; B
They want full **measure** of all your **pleasure**, C
But they do not need your **woe**. B
Be glad, and your friends are many; D
Be sad, and you lose them **all**,— E
There are none to **decline** your nectared **wine**, F
But alone you must drink life's **gall**. E

Feast, and your halls are crowded; A
Fast, and the world goes **by**. B
Succeed and **give**, and it helps you **live**, C
But no man can help you **die**. B
For there is room in the halls of pleasure D
For a large and lordly **train**, E
But one by one we must all file **on** F
Through the narrow aisles of **pain**. E

Each quatrain in the first 2 and
Half octaves starts with two verbs/
actions – and then are followed
by the reactions to those actions.

Discuss what you notice in the poem's

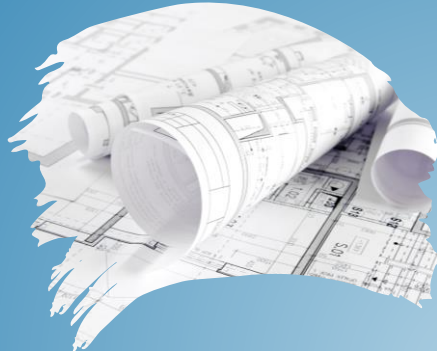


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Diction

Series of alternating positive and negative diction

Illustrates the dichotomy in human relationships



Tone

Circle the positive diction and underline the negative

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

Circle the positive diction and underline the negative

POSITIVE

- Laugh
- Mirth
- Sing
- Joyful
- Care
- Rejoice
- Pleasure
- Glad
- Friends
- Nectared wine
- Feast
- Succeed
- Give
- Live
- Lordly train

NEGATIVE

- Weep
- Sad
- Trouble
- Sigh
- Lost
- Shrink
- Grieve
- Woe
- Sad
- Alone
- Fast
- Die
- Narrow
- Aisles
- Pain

JUXTAPOSITION / ANTITHESIS

Direct opposites used in conjunction with one another

Discuss what you notice in the poem's

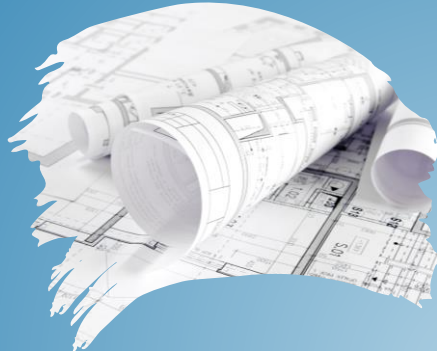


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Series of alternating positive and negative diction

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Tone

The voice seems 'matter-of-fact' but also sincere with a tinge of melancholy

The closing lines tend towards resignation



REACTION TO EXPRESSION OF EMOTIONS

Laugh, and the world laughs with you;
Weep, and you weep alone;
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth,
But has trouble enough of its own.



REACTION TO EXPRESSION OF EMOTIONS

Outward
expression of joy

Synecdoche – all
people

Links to the title
Image of isolation
in grief

Connotations
of sadness and
despair

Laugh, weep
AUDIBLE EMOTIONS

Laugh, and the **world** laughs with you;

Weep, and you weep alone;

For the **sad old earth** must borrow its **mirth,**

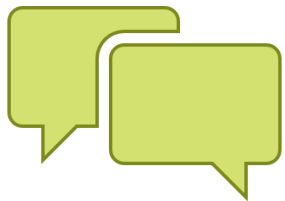
But has **trouble enough** of its **own.**

PERSONIFICATION
Earth seems like a
dejected and aged
old person

Earth has seen
too much
already

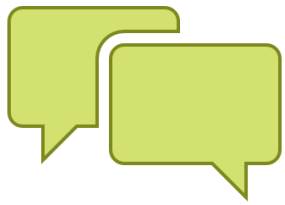
Another image of
isolation/ deals
with it alone

Happiness/ joy
borrowed, not
owned



COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO EMOTIONS

Sing, and the hills will answer;
Sigh, it is lost on the air;
The echoes bound to a joyful sound,
But shrink from voicing care.



COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO EMOTIONS





PHYSICAL RESPONSE TO EMOTIONS

Rejoice, and men will seek you;
Grieve, and they turn and go;
They want full measure of all your pleasure,
But they do not need your woe.



PHYSICAL RESPONSE TO EMOTIONS

Celebrate a win/
positive event

Again, represents
all people

Put effort into
finding you

Abandon you when
you need them

Rejoice, and men will seek you;
Grieve, and they turn and go;
They want full measure of all your pleasure,
But they do not need your woe.

Mourn a loss/
death

Will take as much as
they can get of the
good times

Not willing to take
on your pain



PHYSICAL RESPONSE TO EMOTIONS

Be glad, and your friends are many;
Be sad, and you lose them all,—
There are none to decline your nectared wine,
But alone you must drink life's gall.



PHYSICAL RESPONSE TO EMOTIONS

Not even a strongly negative emotion

Show positivity

'Fair-weather' friends
Only there for the good times

Speaking in absolutes – all will go

Be **glad**, and your friends are many;
Be **sad**, and you lose them all, —
There are **none** to decline your **nectared wine**,
But **alone** you must drink **life's gall**.

Another absolute
Not even one

REPETITION
another reference to the title

Bitter liquid
METAPHOR
for tough times

Sweetened/
delicious wine
METAPHOR
for good times



REACTION TO ACTIONS AND DEATH

Feast, and your halls are crowded;
Fast, and the world goes by.
Succeed and give, and it helps you live,
But no man can help you die.



REACTION TO ACTIONS AND DEATH

Times of success
and plenty

People gather to
enjoy your wealth

Your existence
will be ignored

Feast, and your halls are crowded;

Fast, and the world goes by.

Succeed and give, and it helps you live,

But no man can help you die.

Opposite of
feast
deliberately
depriving
oneself of food

You gain
nourishment from
success

Death is a solitary
experience

Sense of finality

Living life to the
fullest



REACTION TO ACTIONS AND DEATH

For there is room in the halls of pleasure
For a large and lordly train,
But one by one we must all file on
Through the narrow aisles of pain.



REACTION TO ACTIONS AND DEATH

Come in in there's
space for
everyone!

Halls are spacious
and vast

Hedonistic
connotations

For there is **room** in the **halls** of **pleasure**
For a **large and lordly train**,
But **one by one** we must all **file** on
Through the **narrow aisles** of **pain**.

Links to the
aisles image but
can contain
many

ALLITERATION
“l” sound
emphasises the
largess/ grandeur

Single file
Cannot hold
hands or talk
March towards
the inevitable

Uncomfortable
image
Not enough room

Significant that the final
word and image is
negative

MESSAGE?

Being happy will attract people but being sad will push them away.

We must face our problems on our own and not rely on others for comfort or help.

At the end of the day/ life we have only ourselves and we need to be practical and self-reliant.

However, the spectrum of emotions are a normal part of the human condition.

It is easy to share in others' joy but challenging to aid them in their trauma.

THEMES

Inevitability of both joy and despair
Individual versus society

IRONY

We are alone in our grief and death...
BUT everyone also experiences it.
So are we really alone?

