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English ¾

1 December 2015

Beat Peer Close Reading Log: "Untitled"

In "Untitled", Smith uses a wide array of poetic devices, most prominently cesuras and sensory details, to flood readers with vivid images and meaningful emotions derived from preexisting memories.

This poem begins with a beautifully painted image of a mountain landscape. Smith describes these mountains to be "shiny" and "of glass". This awe inducing description fills readers with a sense of admiration for these wonders of nature that are usually, ironically, overlooked. Smith, then follows up to personify these mountains and give them life. In comparison to a hot summer's day for humans, mountains continually feel the heat waves of the sun at their peaks. It is wondrous how the snowy tips of mountains don't melt. Other than sight, Smith also stimulates other senses in this piece. He triggers auditory senses with "Metal bullets rattle across the street", which is also easily visualized through memories of old gun fights in action movies. He triggers olfactory senses with "Cookies are always warm and fresh, perfect...", which easily stimulates the nostrils to reminisce a day at grandma's house.

To couple these senses, Smith also brings forth emotions. With the "metal bullets" he presents the reader with adrenaline and excitement. With "cookies" that are "fresh and perfect" he presents warmth and comfort. But not all these emotions are positive. Smith utilizes cesuras to add ominous tones to some lines. The pause due to the period at the end of the line "Something

isn't quite right" instills a sense of suspense with the reader, and the pause due to the question mark at the end of the line "Why is it cold here" is enough to give readers goosebumps.

In conclusion, Smith's use of poetic devices, coupled with sensory details and vivid imagery, streams many different sense feelings and emotions into readers. The piece triggers memories in which the the emotions and feelings derive.