

POETRY
RESPONSE Jackman 1

Amanda Jackman

Writing Seminar

Professor Bauer

12 November 2012

CONTENT 10
MECH 9

119

Stuck Nowhere

When in an airport, getting ready to travel to another place, there are specific scenes that anyone who has been in one before is familiar with. Each airport is created for a common purpose: to allow an individual to travel to another place by plane. A significant amount of time may be lost while waiting for a flight to take off, due to early arrival or a plane delay. The October 15 edition of *The New Yorker* the poem "Neither Here Nor There" by William Stanley Merwin describes an airport and makes the reader more familiar with his perspective of an airport, through second person point of view. Familiarity is shown through his use of imagery and in turn, displays an alternate meaning.

Merwin is known for his impersonal, open style that lacks punctuation. This poem was written in second person, which is rare because this point of view is typically used for instruction purposes or tries to persuade someone to want something. He is persuading someone to go to an airport if they feel like they are nowhere and looking to go somewhere. He was always interested in the history behind buildings which is shown in the second stanza stating, "yet some unnamed person in the past deliberately planned it to be there" (34). This describes that he was thinking about the past of the airport.

Through Merwin's use of imagery, he is able to better explain what he observes, create emotion, and for those who have been to an airport before; memories. The first three lines in the third stanza say, "...and you have spent time there again and are spending time there again..."

(34) and compares this to the last line in the stanza, "like the souls in Purgatory." (34). This creates the feeling of going to the airport and spending hours upon hours waiting for the flight to take off. Also, this is an instant where Merwin compares the airport to the souls of purgatory, which allows the reader to visualize that there is a significant amount of time passing waiting for something, anything to happen. Another example is in the fourth stanza describing how "you sit there in the smell of what passes for food" (34). The smell that passes for food can refer to the fast food restaurants with their unhealthy food or the airline food itself. These are both pretty typical scents and create the image of all the fast food restaurants lined up next to each other like they are in a shopping mall. These images create an emotion in the reader because they are stuck waiting in "nowhere" looking to go "somewhere" (34).

The fact that Merwin mentions how the land before the building came to be explains his personal interest as the writer. Through imagery he explains that the person traveling is looking to go somewhere. The personal interest and imagery that Merwin shows leads the reader through their own memories to the big picture and presents the idea that until somewhere is reached, one is still left nowhere.

Good connection between the images + meaning. Strong work on your sentence structure + paragraph organization. Good prep. work

Works Consulted

"W. S. Merwin." - Poets.org. Academy of American Poets, 1998-2012. Web. 14 Nov. 2012.

<<http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/123>>.

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Stuck Nowhere

When in an airport, getting ready to travel to another place, there are specific scenes that anyone who has been in one before is familiar with. Each airport is created for a common purpose: to allow an individual to travel to another place by plane. A significant amount of time may be lost while waiting for a flight to take off, due to early arrival or a plane delay. The October 15 edition of *The New Yorker* the poem "Neither Here Nor There" by William Stanley Merwin describes an airport and makes the reader more familiar with his perspective of an airport, through second person point of view. Familiarity is shown through his use of imagery and, in turn, displays an alternate meaning.

Merwin is known for his impersonal, open style that lacks punctuation. This poem was written in second person, which is rare because this point of view is typically used for instruction purposes or tries to persuade someone to want something. As intended, he is persuading someone to go to an airport if they feel like they are nowhere and looking to go somewhere. He was always interested in the history behind buildings which is shown in the second stanza stating, "...yet some unnamed person in the past deliberately planned it to be there..." (34). This describes that he was thinking about the past of the airport.

→ Through Merwin's use of imagery, he is able to better explain what he observes, create emotion, and for those who have been to an airport before; memories. The first three lines in the third stanza say, "...and you have spent time there again and are spending time there again..."

(34). This brings back the feeling of going to the airport and spending hours upon hours waiting for the flight to take off. Another example is in the fourth stanza describing that "...you sit there in the smell of what passes for food..." The smell that passes for food can refer to the fast food restaurants with their unhealthy food or the airlines' food itself. These are both pretty typical scents and create the image of all the fast food restaurants lined up next to each other like they are in a shopping mall. [These images create an emotion in the reader because they are stuck waiting in "nowhere" looking to go "somewhere."]

The fact that Merwin mentions how the land before the building came to be explains his personal interest as the writer. Through imagery he explains that the person traveling is looking to go somewhere. The personal interest and imagery that Merwin shows leads the reader through their own memories to the big picture and presents the idea that until somewhere is reached, one is still left nowhere.

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Not Anywhere

When in an airport, getting ready to travel to another place, there are specific scenes that anyone who has been in an airport before is familiar with. Each airport is created for a common purpose; to allow an individual to travel to another place by plane. A significant amount of time

maybe colon

may be lost while waiting for a flight to take off, due to early arrival, in the airport or plane delay.

In the October 15 edition of the *New Yorker*, the poem "Neither Here Nor There" by William

italics

Stanley, an airport is described that He describes the airport and makes even an unfamiliar reader, familiar with an airport

through second person point of view. Familiarity is shown through his use of imagery and, in turn, displays an alternate meaning.

* * Rewrite

Merwin is known for his impersonal, open style that lacks punctuation. During his

Stanley?

childhood he was found talking to a tree, he was close with nature. This poem was written in

second person, which is rare, because that pov is second person is typically used for instruction purposes or tries to

persuade one to want something. As intended, he is persuading someone to go to an airport if they

feel like they are nowhere and are looking to go somewhere. He was always interested in the

history behind buildings, which This is shown in his poem in the second stanza stating, "yet some

unnamed person in the past deliberately planned it to be there". This is describing that he was originally Merwin wrote hymns for his father who was a priest. & wait, what?

thinking about the past of the airport. As he changed his religious beliefs, became a Buddhist, the

structure of his poems also changed, the structure and punctuation became nearly nonexistent.

punctuation

becoming

Strange jump here..

2

Through Merwin's use of imagery, he is able to better explain what he observes, ~~in an~~
~~airport and create~~ emotion, and for those who have been to an airport before; memories. The first
 three lines in the third stanza say, "...and you have spent time there again and are spending time
 there again..." ^{*page?} This brings back the feeling of going to the airport and spending hours upon hours
 waiting for the flight to take off. Another example is in the fourth stanza describing that "...you
 sit there in the smell of what passes for food..." ^{*page?} The smell that passes for food can refer to the
 fast food restaurants with their unhealthy food or the airlines food itself. These are both pretty
 typical scents and create the image of all the fast food restaurants lined up next to each other like
 they are in a shopping mall. These images create an emotion in the reader because they are stuck
 waiting in "nowhere" looking to go "somewhere."

no idea about the first sentence

The fact that Merwin mentions ^{good!} the land before the building came to be, ^{how} ~~in this case an~~
~~airport~~, explains his personal interest as the writer. Through imagery he ~~can explain~~ that the
 person traveling is looking to go somewhere. The personal interest and imagery that Merwin
 shows leads the reader through their own memories to the big picture, ~~Merwin~~ presents the idea
 that until somewhere is reached, one is still left nowhere.

many simple sentences

Interesting.

- you say "airport" A LOT.
- fuse 2nd & 3rd sentence together

Poetry Unit

NEITHER HERE NOR THERE

~ Author: William Stanley Merwin

- Christian → Buddhist

- Interested in history of buildings

- Became known for "impersonal" style that eschewed punctuation

~ Imagery

↳ 3rd stanza example + explanation

↳ 4th stanza example + explanation

~ Meaning: time and being "nowhere" trying to get "somewhere"