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Cold War Poem

The melancholy summers once known
Seem so distant in the present.
The wars of planes once flown
Now call for days spent,
Contemplating, estimating.

The stacking of metaphoric bricks
Strengthening together like a wall.
With our recollection of powers similar to the Bolsheviks,
Difficult to comprehend and thus stall.
Permeating, resonating.

An overwhelming shadow of doubt looms in the air.
With the chills of uncertainty
As conflicts collide and tempers flare.
So to do universal urgency.
Awaiting, stagnating.

Through this poem I tried to depict the emotions that the Cold War would have instilled in the people of that time. After reading documents and watching the provided resources for this week I jumped in head first. Starting this poem I knew it needed to be more than rhyming words and using vocab words as clues. I ended up thinking of some technics to further express the emotions and sentiments I wanted to represent.

At first I was uncertain what rhyme scheme I wanted to use if any. I knew I wanted to provide a sense of broken rhythm so I went with an ABABC stanza form. This form allowed me to still use the comfort of rhymes while creating a broken sense of comfort for the reader. I ended the first stanza with two present participles, words ending in -ing. I ended up following this throughout each following stanza. I felt that this technique offered a lasting presence to the poem to make it more powerful and relatable.

This poem started off with an openly bright tone in the first line. Wanting to start with a gradual contrast in emotion I went from “melancholy” to in the past tense as a memory to ending the stanza with the present participle of “Contemplating, estimating.” This offers the audience with a good start and background to the poem’s time of expression. With the sweet past behind and a character thinking of what is to come.

In the second stanza the poem’s mood changes with a more concrete ideology of the time. The concept of the Red Scare and the importance of democracy was important during the Cold War. I managed to also put in context words that might have struck memory of post-Cold War times while still utilizing a forward rhyme scheme. “Bolsheviks” and “wall” to relate to the early Russian communist groups in the early 20th century and the Berlin wall and its construction. Then once again ending the stanza with -ing words; “Permeating, resonating.” These two words picked as a representation of action opposed to just a thought.

The last stanza I wanted to keep the sense of tension as if the poem was written before the end of the Cold War. Trying to capitalize on the sheer overwhelming feeling that loomed over the entire nation “awaiting, stagnating.”

I Pledge (473)