

Poetry Project

Andrew Clark

Lyrics to *Dust in the Wind*

- I close my eyes
Only for a moment, then the moment's gone
All my dreams
Pass before my eyes, a curiosity
Dust in the wind
All they are is dust in the wind
- Same old song
Just a drop of water in an endless sea
All we do
Crumbles to the ground, though we refuse to see
Dust in the wind
All we are is dust in the wind, ohh
- Now, don't hang on
Nothing lasts forever but the earth and sky
It slips away
And all your money won't another minute buy
Dust in the wind
All we are is dust in the wind
All we are is dust in the wind
- Dust in the wind
Everything is dust in the wind
Everything is dust in the wind
The wind

Novelistic/Dramatic Approach

The speaker tells the people that their physical lives don't matter that much, and that their spiritual lives are more important.

The speaker thinks of what to do so the people change their views.

The people realized their materialistic ways weren't the right way to live, and change their ways.

The speaker is sad about the world and its materialistic views. The time is the '70s.

Realistic Approach

- This song relates to many incidents in real life. The song is saying that people shouldn't live so materialistically, because our life on this planet doesn't mean much, and it is our spiritual life that really matters. This relates to many people's lives who are always in a rush and caught up in the physical ways of the world. It is easy for one to see that this song relates to many people's lives.

Thematic Approach

- The song “Dust in the Wind” has a very deep meaning in it. The song’s main purpose is to tell people how their physical lives on Earth don’t mean much, and that it is one’s spiritual life that comes out on top in the long run. This meaning is shown well in the line “Now, don't hang on, nothing lasts forever but the earth and sky” and also the line “And all your money won't another minute buy”. These lines clearly state the theme of the song.

Structural Approach

- The song “Dust in the Wind” has no shifts in its tone or purpose. The tone of the song stays the same throughout all of the song’s stanzas. The song has a sad tone, or possibly even a longing tone, as the author wishes more people would see the truths of what really matters. All in all, the poem has no shifts.

Art/History Approach

- A massive ocean with a water drop falling in it- this image is symbolic of how each individual is really nothing on the grand scale.
- Crumbling Buildings- this image is symbolic of how everything that we do and build will eventually be destroyed.
- The planet and the universe around it- this symbolizes that when you look how massive the infinite universe is, humanity doesn't take up much space.
- All of these images help get the listener/reader's attention and help get the theme across to them.

Allusion Approach

- The song “Dust in the Wind” relates well to the book of Ecclesiastes in the Bible. The main theme in “Dust in the Wind” is that humans don’t amount to much on the grand scale of things, and that one’s spiritual life is more important than one’s physical life. This connects well with Ecclesiastes, because in this book, King Solomon, with his life well behind him, examines the world and decides that man really doesn’t take up much space in the universe, and that his physical life meant nothing compared to his spiritual life. This shared idea clearly shows a connection between “Dust in the Wind” and Ecclesiastes.

English Teacher Approach

Green= metaphor

Red= Simile

Underline=
Anaphora

Italicized=
repetition

- I close my eyes
Only for a moment, then the moment's gone
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Nothing lasts forever but the earth and sky
It slips away
And all your money won't another minute buy
Dust in the wind
All we are is *dust in the wind*
All we are is *dust in the wind*
- Dust in the wind
Everything is *dust in the wind*
Everything is *dust in the wind*
The wind

English Teacher Approach (cont'd)

- The metaphors and similes help give the poem its sad tone, and contribute to the meaning.
- The repetition and anaphora help get the tone across, also.
- This figurative language is very well used by the author and makes this a much stronger poem.

Significant Event Approach

- This song connects not only to the period when it was written, but nearly every period since civilization has existed. The song's meaning, that one's physical life isn't nearly as important as their spiritual one, can relate to just about any time period. People have always been materialistic, so this meaning can relate to anyone from any time period's life. Overall, this song can connect to any time period.

Musical Approach

Italicized=
Assonance

Underlined= Rhyme

Bolded= consonance

• I close <i>my eyes</i>	A
<i>Only</i> for a <i>moment</i> , then the <i>moment's</i> gone	B
All my <u>dreams</u>	C
Pass before my eyes, a <u>curiosity</u>	C
Dust <i>in</i> the <u>wind</u>	D
<i>All they are is</i> dust <i>in</i> the <u>wind</u>	D
• Same old song	A
Just a drop of water in an endless <u>sea</u>	B
All we do	C
Crumbles to the ground, though <i>we refuse</i> to	B
<u>see</u>	D
• Dust in the wind	D
All we are is dust in the wind, ohh	A
• Now, don't hang on	B
Nothing lasts forever but the earth and <u>sky</u>	C
<i>It slips</i> away	B
<i>And all</i> your <i>money</i> won't <i>another</i> minute <u>buy</u>	D
Dust in the wind	D
All we are is dust in the wind	D
All we are is dust in the wind	D
• Dust in the wind	A
Everything is dust in the wind	A
Everything is dust in the wind	A
The wind	A

Musical Approach (cont'd)

- The assonance and consonance in this song help give it a set rhythm.
- The rhyme scheme consists of mainly end rhymes and a few slant rhymes.
- Mainly a spondee meter and a trochee meter.
- The assonance, consonance, and rhyme help give the poem a set rhythm.
- The song's meter gives the song a slow, deep sound and feeling. The author used this because this sound connects with the meaning.