

Poetry Approaches

By

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Novelistic Approach

Setting: Behind a bank behind some
trash cans

The speaker
wakes him from
his dream

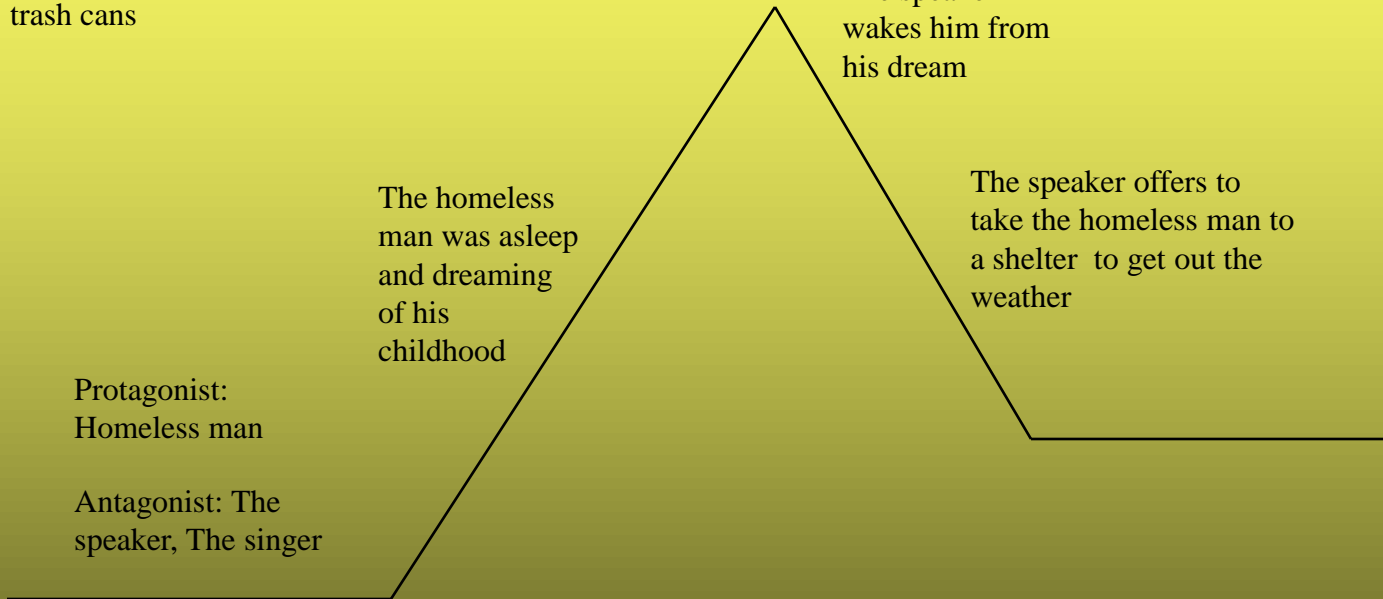
The homeless
man was asleep
and dreaming
of his
childhood

The speaker offers to
take the homeless man to
a shelter to get out the
weather

Protagonist:
Homeless man

Antagonist: The
speaker, The singer

The dream is gone and
the homeless man is
back in his upsetting
reality



Realistic Approach

All good things must come to an end. The homeless man's good times have passed and he's in a bad situation. There have been many good times in my life, but always no matter what I want they must come to an end.

Thematic Approach

Good times in life will fade. The homeless man once had a happy farm life, but over time things come to a close and a new chapter in his life was started.

Allusion Approach

The song can be related to the movie The Lion King. In the movie as in the song there is a character enjoying a childhood life and many good times. Although some time passes and through various reasons that stage of life is over and they find themselves alone and without a place to call home. They both have dreams of their old life and home. Also, later they are both generously offered help and a shelter.

Musical Approach

Key

Alliteration

Assonance

Cont'd

He had plastic bags wrapped 'round his shoes A

Had a pair of old wool socks on his hands B

He was covered with the evening news C

The bank sign was flashing "5 below D

It was freezing rain an' spittin' snow D

He was curled up behind some garbage cans C

I was afraid that he was dead E

I gave him a gentle shake F

When he opened up his eyes G

I said, "Old man are you ok?" H

Cont'd

He said, "I just climbed out of a cottonwood tree	I
I was runnin' from some honey bees	I
Drip dryin' in the summer breeze	J
After jumpin' into Calico creek	K
I was walkin' down an old dirt road	L
Past a field of hay that had just been mowed	M
Man I wish you'd just left me alone	N
'Cause I was almost home..."	N

Cont'd

Then he said, "I was just comin' round the barn"	O
'Bout the time you grabbed my arm	O
When I heard Momma holler son hurry up	P
I was close enough for my old nose	D
To smell fresh cobbler on the stove	Q
And I saw daddy loadin' up the truck	R
Cane poles on the tailgate	S
Bobbers blowin' in the wind	T
Since July of '55	U
That's as close as I've been	V

Cont'd

He said, "I just climbed out of a cottonwood tree	I
I was runnin' from some honey bees	I
Drip dryin' in the summer breeze	J
After jumpin' into Calico creek	K
I was walkin' down an old dirt road	L
Past a field of hay that had just been mowed	M
Man I wish you'd just left me alone	N
'Cause I was almost home..."	N

Cont'd

I said,"old man you're gonna freeze to death"	W
Let me drive you to the mission	X
He said,"Boy if you'd left me alone	N
Right now I'd be fishin'"	X
"I just climbed out of a cottonwood tree	I
I was runnin' from some honey bees	I
Drip dryin' in the summer breeze	J
After jumpin' into Calico creek	K

Cont'd

I **was walkin'** down an old dirt road L
Past a field of hay **that had** just been mowed M
Man I wish you'd just left me alone N
'Cause I was almost home" N

"Man I wish you'd just left me alone
I was **almost home...**" N
N

Cont'd

The alliteration in the song is to help it flow as the reader is listening. It is also used with assonance in the chorus to help it stick out to the person listening.

English Teacher Approach

Key:

Anaphora

Parallelism

Cont'd

He had plastic bags wrapped 'round his shoes
He was covered with the evening news
Had a pair of old wool socks on his hands

The bank sign was flashing "5 below
It was freezing rain an' spittin' snow
He was curled up behind some garbage cans

I was afraid that he was dead
I gave him a gentle shake
When he opened up his eyes
I said, "Old man are you ok?"

Cont'd

He said, "I just climbed out of a cottonwood tree
I was runnin' from some honey bees
Drip dryin' in the summer breeze
After jumpin' into Calico creek
I was walkin' down an old dirt road
Past a field of hay that had just been mowed
Man I wish you'd just left me alone
'Cause I was almost home..."

Cont'd

Then he said, "I was just comin' round the barn"
'Bout the time you grabbed my arm
When I heard Momma holler son hurry up
I was close enough for my old nose
To smell fresh cobbler on the stove
And I saw daddy loadin' up the truck
Cane poles on the tailgate
Bobbers blowin' in the wind
Since July of '55
That's as close as I've been

Cont'd

Then he said, "I was just comin' round the barn"
'Bout the time you grabbed my arm
When I heard Momma holler son hurry up
I was close enough for my old nose
To smell fresh cobbler on the stove
And I saw daddy loadin' up the truck
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Bobbers blowin' in the wind
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Cont'd

He said, "I just climbed out of a cottonwood tree
I was runnin' from some honey bees
Drip dryin' in the summer breeze
After jumpin' into Calico creek
I was walkin' down an old dirt road
Past a field of hay that had just been mowed
Man I wish you'd just left me alone
'Cause I was almost home..."

Cont'd

I said, "old man you're gonna freeze to death"

Let me drive you to the mission

He said, "Boy if you'd left me alone

Right now I'd be fishin'"

"I just climbed out of a cottonwood tree

I was runnin' from some honey bees

Drip dryin' in the summer breeze

After jumpin' into Calico creek

Cont'd

I was walkin' down an old dirt road

Past a field of hay that had just been mowed

Man I wish you'd just left me alone

'Cause I was almost home"

"Man I wish you'd just left me alone

I was almost home..."

Cont'd

The parallelism in the song is used to keep it flowing as the homeless man describes his childhood. It also is used to keep the sentences very simple and written as they would be by the homeless man. The anaphora is used during describing the homeless man ,whether by the speaker or by himself, to help keep a rhyme pattern.

Significant Event Approach

When Craig Morgan was a child he lived a simple life like the man in the song. His simple life like in the song came to a halt at adult hood, however. He joined the army and became a rappel and jump master which intensified his life greatly.

Art History Approach

The imagery when the singer speaks about the conditions the homeless man were in is very harsh and cold to let the listener have a sense of pity for him. Also the childhood of the homeless man is described in great detail and seems very fun and very beautiful so the listener can see how great things used to be for the man.

Structural Approach

There are shifts in the song when it gets into the chorus. The lines become longer and less dreary to show the fun and beauty when describing the homeless man's childhood. Also the lines get shorter when the homeless man is speaking to show how depressed he is in the way his life is now and how he wishes his life was back to the way his childhood was.