



# Poetry Project

Tony Lam





# **“Daniel” by Bernie Taupin**

**Daniel is traveling tonight on a plane  
I can see the red taillights heading for Spain  
Oh and I can see Daniel waving goodbye  
God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my eyes  
They say Spain is pretty though I've never been  
Well Daniel says its the best place that he's ever seen  
Oh and he should know, he's been there enough  
Lord I miss Daniel, oh I miss him so much**



# **“Daniel” by Bernie Taupin (continued)**

**Daniel my brother you are older than me  
Do you still feel the pain of the scars that won't heal  
Your eyes have died but you see more than I  
Daniel you're a star in the face of the sky**

**Daniel is traveling tonight on a plane  
I can see the red taillights heading for Spain  
Oh and I can see Daniel waving goodbye  
God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my eyes  
Oh God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my eyes**

# Musical Approach

Daniel is traveling tonight on a plane (a)

I can see the red taillights heading for Spain (a)

Oh and I can see Daniel waving goodbye (b)

God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my eyes (b)

They say Spain is pretty though I've never been (c\*)

Well Daniel says it's the best place that he's ever seen (c\*)

Oh and he should know, he's been there enough (d)

Lord I miss Daniel, oh I miss him so much (d)

Blue = alliteration

Red = consonance

\* = sight rhyme

Pink = assonance

# Musical Approach (continued)

Daniel my brother you are older than me (e)

Do you still feel the pain of the scars that won't heal (e)

Your eyes have died but you see more than I (f)

Daniel you're a star in the face of the sky (f)

Daniel is traveling tonight on a plane (g)

I can see the red taillights heading for Spain (g)

Oh and I can see Daniel waving goodbye (h)

God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my eyes (h)

Oh God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my eyes (i)

# **Musical Approach Explained**

**Many of the alliterations, consonances, and assonances found in the poem are short, and none of the examples have a significant meaning towards the text since the text is naturally strong enough.**

# English Teacher Approach

Daniel is traveling tonight on a plane  
I can see the red taillights heading for Spain  
Oh and I can see Daniel waving goodbye  
God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my eyes

They say Spain is pretty though I've never been  
Well Daniel says its the best place that he's ever seen  
Oh and he should know, he's been there enough  
Lord I miss Daniel, oh I miss him so much

Green = Hyperbole

# English Teacher Approach (continued)

Daniel my brother you are older than me

Do you still feel the pain of the scars that won't heal

Your eyes have died but you see more than I

Daniel you're a star in the face of the sky

Daniel is traveling tonight on a plane

I can see the red taillights heading for Spain

Oh and I can see Daniel waving goodbye

God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my eyes

Oh God it looks like Daniel, must be the clouds in my eyes

Purple = Personification

Metaphor = brown

# **English Teacher Approach Explained**

**The few examples of figurative language have somewhat strong meaning. “Clouds in my eyes” hints that he is clouded by a lack of experience to see subjects clearer. “Daniel you’re a star in the face of the sky” symbolizes Daniel as an object of wisdom in the world.**

# Structure Graph

Daniel loses his eyesight

Daniel fights in the  
Vietnam War

Goes home after War is  
over

Daniel heads to Spain for  
vacation

Speaker and Daniel (Speaker's  
brother) are parting ways at an  
airport. Speaker reminisces on  
brother's past.

# Realistic Approach

**This poem relates to my parents in that they both are wiser from experience, just like Daniel is. It is implied by the line “Your eyes have died, but you see more than I”, meaning that the speaker feels his experience allows Daniel to see things from a different perspective.**

# Allusion Approach

**In a way, this poem relates to *A Separate Peace* in that both Finny and Daniel are more knowledgeable about what is more important about life, while Gene and the speaker are both observing them and wanting to be like Finny or Daniel.**

# Significant Approach

**This poem was based on a Vietnam Vet (in the version he originally wrote) that has just come back from war and is leaving for Spain that same day, told from his younger brother's perspective (speaker). This means that it was a couple of days after the end of the Vietnam War, which was April 30, 1975.**

# Art History Approach

- **Plane – shows that he is not close enough to travel by other transportation**
- **Red taillights – has a nice rhythm that makes the poem flow better**
- **Spain - sanctuary**
- **Clouds (in [his] eyes) – shows that he is still inexperienced to see from a greater perspective**
- **Scars/ eyes – blindness**
- **Star – object of wisdom**

# Thematic Approach

**Only experience can make a person wiser.**

**This means that only experiences can open a person's eyes about life and give the person different perspectives on subjects.**

**This is shown by the line “Your eyes have died, but you see more than I”.**

**The speaker believes his older brother is wiser than he was by experiencing the war (in Bernie's original copy of “Daniel”).**

# Works Cited

<http://www.songfacts.com/detail.php?id=23>  
50