

Student Essay on "Auto Wreck" by Karl Shapiro: Poetry Analysis

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Essay

1. Title and author: "Auto Wreck" by Karl Shapiro
2. Topic: The presence of the automobile in the modern world.
3. Theme: People are oddly fascinated with auto wrecks.
4. Mood: gloomy
5. Poetic Devices (word selection and order):

A. rhyme: little, hospital

B. alliteration: soft, silver; bell, beating; bell, breaking; down, dark; light, like; dips, down; tight, tourniquets; sickly, smiles; stubborn, saw

C. consonance: mangled, lifted; little, hospital

D. assonance: bell, beating; dark, flare; light, like; top, floating; bell, breaking; doors, closed; hangs, lanterns; touching, wound; unspoken, innocent

E. parallelism: "And down the dark...", "And brakes speed...", "And stowed into...", "And the ambulance..."; "One is still...", "One with a bucket...", "One hangs..."; "Our throats were tight...", "Our feet were bound..."; "And cancer...", "And spatters..."; "Who shall die", "Who is innocent"

F. repetition: "beating, beating"; "floating down", "dips down"; "rocking, slightly rocking"

G. meter: none

H. number of stanzas: 4

6. Poetic devices (effects and images):

A. imagery: "Pulsing out red light like an artery"; "One with a bucket douches ponds of blood"; "simple as a flower, blooms"; " stretchers are laid out the mangled lifted"

B. personification: none

C. metaphor: none

D. simile: "red light like an artery"

E. onomatopoeia: "silver bell beating, beating"

F. hyperbole: none

G. understatement: none



H. oxymoron: "grim joke"

I. paradox: "grim joke"

J. irony: "grim joke"

7. My favorite line: "One with a bucket douches ponds of blood." I know this line is grim, but it is my favorite line because it is so powerful.