

"I Understand"

By: Alejandra Gonzalez

After every storm, comes a rainbow.
After loss, comes tears.
After tears, comes denial.
After denial, comes acceptance.
And after acceptance, comes forgiveness.

I don't understand why bad things happen to good people,
I don't understand how my world could be flipped upside down so fast,
the day I was told what was going on,
everything turned into a blur, like trying to walk through a thick blanket of fog.
that day, everything that was familiar to me crashed from existence,
I couldn't register the information in my brain
I couldn't arrange it to make sense no matter how hard I tried
I don't understand why people are so selfish,
destroying everything in their paths like a tornado plowing through a field of delicate lilies
and with its harsh winds it kept setting me back to where I started,
there was no escape from this vicious never ending loop
I thought my sunshine was stripped from the sky and would never return,
in fact it was stolen from me by these selfish people,
who were thinking only in the reward of greed and wealth,
who were thinking that maybe one less life in this world wouldn't make a difference,
but it does... it did.
It made a difference in the way I see things, feel things
It opened my eyes to what really mattered,
to what only mattered
It showed me to appreciate more, and find joy in the little moments
It showed me the path to an eternal love that compares to nothing else
It helped me understand.
before I was blinded by reality,
It kept me from seeing what was important,
but that reality is no longer important.
I never intended to dwell in it for as long as I did,
but because of it
I understand now why the sun doesn't always shine
I understand why there has to be storms so that rainbows can appear
I understand why people have to cry to reach forgiveness
But to this day I still do not understand why people are so...
selfish.

Written Explanation

I used several different techniques to mimic the writing style of Jimmy Santiago Baca. I tried my best to mimic the way he used repetition and parallelism because I feel like he executes these skills very well in his writing and I love the way it all connects in the end. I used parallelism when I was comparing what I didn't understand to what I now understand, and in between I tried to transition smoothly from one idea to the other. I used repetition of different phrases throughout my poem to develop a main idea. I used punctuation and capitalization when I felt it was needed or to show certain meanings as Jimmy Santiago Baca did in "Who Understands Me, But Me".

To connect with my audience I decided to choose a topic that is easily understood by most people; it's something that people can relate to. I used some figurative language to help send my message across to the reader. I used similes and metaphors to help paint a picture of the emotions going on throughout this poem. I used repetition of phrases that indicate what I was feeling or what I understood; it helped create emphasis on what I was trying to say and it's defined the shift between ideas.

The moral story of this poem or the take-away that I wanted the reader to learn was to appreciate and cherish what you have while you have it, and to always look on the bright side of any situation. I want them to see that even if you are going through a rough time where you feel like it's never ending, there is always a way to make it better, it will just take some time. I feel like the word choice that I used sounded natural, it was easy to comprehend and it reflects the emotion of the poem. The adjectives that I used transition along with the mood as you read the poem to help indicate the shifts of emotions.