But Why/If/Because
By Camryn Parnitke

1. But why do I love it, if my directors yell "again!" 17 times
2. But why do I love it, if rehearsals drag on for hours
3. But why do I love it, if I forget my li…
4. But why do I love it, if my costumes itch
5. But why do I love it, if the lights are blinding
6. like headlights on my father's car
7. But why do I love it, if my school doesn't bother
8. to fix the A/C in the auditorium
9. But why do I love it, if I'm cast as a minor role
10. But why do I love it, if the crowds are critics
11. judging my every move
12. But do I love it, because it makes me feel?
13. I love I because my directors yell 17 times
14. I love it because the rehearsals drag on for hours
15. I love it because I forget my li…
16. I love it because my costumes itch
17. like the wool on my grandmother's sweater
18. I love it because the lights are blinding
19. I love it because my school doesn't bother
20. to fix the A/C in the auditorium
21. and we are children, laughing at our sweaty clothing
22. I love it when I am cast as a minor role
23. I love it when the crowds are critical
24. I *do* love it, because it makes me feel.
25. People ask me why I love it
26. People ask me why I let my directors yell 17 times
27. People ask me why I sit in a sweaty room for hours of rehearsal time
28. where I forget my lines
29. where the lights are blinding
30. and my costume itches
31. But I tell them that it's because
32. I love it.

33. We are all puzzle pieces of society
34. But *why not* find passion in something you love
35. to be different
36. to be known
37. to be involved
38. Like I did with theatre.

Analysis:

Parallelism:

Throughout the entire poem, I used sporadic punctuation because I wanted to convey that I don't have a specific or designated feeling towards each event or thought, there are things to love and things to dislike.

Also, in stanza 1, in lines 1-24, I asked and answered my own question. I wrote my poem like this because it is sort of an answer that I give to many people and even myself sometimes. In the beginning, it's doubtful and unpurposed, but I soon reassure myself that I am doing what love for a reason.

Lastly, in stanza 2, lines 35-37, I repeat "to be _____" 3 times. This signifies why being involved is so important, and why I love what I do. The "to be" also answers "but why".

Repetition:

"But why": In stanza 1, lines 1-11, I start off with "but why". This part of the poem signifies to myself and others why I *shouldn't* love what I do. Listening to all the things that follow "but why", most people would really question why I love what I do.

"I love it": In stanza 1, lines 13-23, I answer my "but why" questions that were stated previously. This explains to myself and the reader why I *should* love it. Now, listening to things that follow "I love it", some people might still question why I love it, but to me, it states that theatre is important and a major part in my life.

Figurative Language:

Similes:

In stanza 1, line 6, I state "like headlights on my father's car". Also, in stanza 1, line 17, I wrote "like the wool on my grandmother's sweater". With these two similes, I am comparing my family and personal relationships with theatre. Although family and theatre are completely different subjects, I always think of my family and friends, and what they might think while I am performing.

Metaphors:

In stanza 1, line 21, I state "and we are children, laughing at our sweaty clothing". I also wrote in stanza 2, line 33, "We are all puzzle pieces of society". Though originally I didn't think of really connecting these two metaphors, I found something out while reading my writing. People in society are often portrayed or seen a different way than they really are. Sometimes, when people see theatre kids, or performing artists in general, they laugh or scoff because they think they are weird or different. Even though we are all pieces of society, those pieces can break off

to create their own puzzle. Though having a dream as a theatre kid may seem "child-like", it's not, it's a passion.