

what have we been taught in society?

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*1 It's what you wear that counts, they say
2 your personality is important too, they lied
3 It is not what's on the inside.
4 It is how you look, what's on the outside
5 But, what is on the outside?
6 We've been taught by our parents that looks don't matter
7 We've been taught by society that looks are everything
8 at school, you are graded by what we do in class
9 outside,
10 in reality, we are graded by who we are and how we look on a scale,
11 a scale that is tipping,
12 tipping towards a border;
13 the border between how you look and where you shop vs your life story and your personality
14 but, what are looks?*

*15 I woke up on a cloud from a deep slumber.
16 I always start my morning off by cleansing my face.
17 I walk up to the mirror and instantly,
18 I saw my imperfections;
19 my pimples, my freckles that I hate, how I have a naked eye
20 with little to no amounts of eyelashes.
21 I stare at my reflection, only for a little bit;
22 as if the more I stare, the more defects pop out at me and the worse I look.
23 I wash my face and move on to cover my imperfections;
24 I cover my imperfections as if I'm frosting a cake.
25 The flaws are covered by a mask.
26 A new face covering my old face, the one people wouldn't want to see.
27 I walk up to my full length mirror to change,
28 I saw my imperfections straightaway.
29 I am not as skinny as I would like to be,
30 I do not have a curvy body,
31 I feel that the top of my body is like a trapezoid, my shoulders being too wide.
32 I want to look like a model,
33 but I am not one.
34 My flaws,
35 my imperfections,
36 my defects
37 make up me, no matter what anyone says,
38 and me is okay.*

-Parallelism:

Stanza 1, Lines 3-4

"It is" is repeated in lines 3 and 4 in the beginning of the sentence of each life. This is considered parallelism because it is what happens in real life. I used it to draw my point and make the idea stand out more. Almost like an order.

Stanza 2, Lines 34-36

I used the word "my" and then a one word adjective (flaw, defect, etc.). This was used as a feeling of acceptance. I was accepting that flaws, defects, and imperfections make up a person. The separation between the next line gives the reader time to think about their imperfections (at least that's what I was going for).

Stanza 1, Lines 6-7

"We've been taught by (group or person)" and then what they taught; I used this to show relationship between what our loved ones taught us vs what reality taught us. I used the two examples, parents and society, to show a relationship that one builds us up for defeat. We were taught in the beginning that this or that doesn't matter, but once we get out into the real world, it always does. It depends how you look. I think that this parallelism is effective because there was one reason or idea and the next line, the next idea, was the complete opposite from the first reason or idea.

-Repetition

Stanza 1, Lines 1-14

I used the idea that people say one thing, but the truth is the other idea is the reality of everything. I put this idea into action by repeating the same idea, but in different ways, in different words.

Stanza 2, Lines 22 and 24

I used the words "as if" twice to show not only a metaphor, but show that I was realizing something. Self reflection almost. I was realizing that I do things that relate to real world activities (frosting a cake) or things we do on an everyday basis, like staring at myself in the mirror.

Metaphor

Stanza 1, Line 10

I used the metaphor that a person is graded and that we are put on a scale. We aren't literally being graded but it feels like we are. I used the correlation with school grades so that the reader has an idea of where I got the metaphor from. This metaphor of grades was used because people judge us, give us looks, just based on how we look not on how we act. Our school work is graded by what we did.

Stanza 2, Line 15

The metaphor of walking up on a cloud was the beginning of me finding something comfortable. I went on to explain the imperfection I found in myself, but I went back to being comfortable in myself. I see clouds as a soft, light feeling, so starting the stanza off with something light and airy was used before I found what I thought about myself and then end with finding myself.

Simile

Stanza 2, Line 31

I used the simile that my body was like a trapezoid because my shoulders were wide and then my upper body went in, almost like a triangular shape. I don't like my body shape, but I have to accept the fact that that's how my body shape is. This simile shows that i'm not perfect, and nobody is. I see these posts online about body shapes and comparing them to shapes, so I used it to my advantage in the poem.

Stanza 2, Line 24

I used the simile "as if I was frosting cake" to show that I put on a layer of makeup. The makeup was the frosting and my face was the cake itself. You cover the cake with frosting to make it presentable. I do that with makeup. I feel that my imperfection made me not presentable, almost as if it was informal.