

“The Office”

Written by Sullivan Martin

1. I wake up,
2. Brush my teeth,
3. Put on my clothes pressed like a board,
4. Eat breakfast cold as ice,
5. Get into the car,
6. Pull out of the driveway,
7. See the freezing rain pouring angrily like a charging bull,
8. Feel the bumps in the road,
9. Listen to the highway rumble strips,
10. Squint at the temperate sun as it peaks over the horizon a blooming flower,
11. Believe it's worth it,
12. Pull into the cold, dark parking lot,
13. Grab the steel handle of the concrete tower,
14. Push the rounded button to call the elevator,
15. Ride all the way to the top,
16. Read the daily slog of work,
17. Feel as if it's just too much,
18. Listen to presentations from boring robot co-workers,
19. Realize it's not worth it.
- 20.
21. The stress builds up inside,
22. Tell your boss you just can't do it anymore,
23. The life you have is too important to be wasted,
24. Tell your coworkers goodbye,
25. The gleaming elevator button shines, a light at the end of the tunnel,
26. Every floor you descend takes weight off your shoulder,
27. Grabbing the steel handle and stepping into the sunlight,
28. The rain has ended and now a new chapter has begun,
29. Get into the car now unchained from your past,
30. So much to see and do in this new chapter,
31. The true passions in your life now unsuppressed,
32. Feel the bumps in the road now a little less jarring,
33. The sun shining brightly on your skin,
34. Pull into the driveway,
35. Eat lunch as warm as a blanket,
36. Put on comfy clothes,
37. Go to sleep.

I used figurative language through the poem to give the reader a better visual image of physical things in the story (the rain, the sun, coworkers, the texture of the clothes the narrator wore). I showed the emotion of the narrator not directly but through the contrast of how the narrator felt about the things around him at the beginning of the story and the end. I also used parallelism with the use of a variety of short verbs at the beginning of every line in the first stanza. In addition, I also used parallelism with the alternation of The and Tell in the very beginning of the second stanza. I mimicked the parallelism in the poems we read from Jimmy Santiago further so with the use of commas at the end of each line only using periods to emphasise very specific lines. I used the repetition of temperature in the story when describing the weather and feeling of certain objects. I also used repetition with the use of words that are associated with uncomfortability in the first stanza while then using words related with comfort in the second stanza. For example, in the first paragraph I used words/phrases such as freezing, steel, pressed like a board, slog, and boring; in the second paragraph I used words/phrases such as unchained, gleaming, shining brightly, comfy clothes, and "weight off your shoulders". The attitude about life I wanted to give the reader a sense of in this poem is the idea that sometimes you have to realize that something isn't good for you, whether it's a job, people in your life, bad habits, etc. The main take-away for the reader is that not everything you try will make you happy in life and you need to experiment to find your own personal path in life.