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English 1

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Literary Analysis Poem Essay

 The theme of the poem “Funeral Blues” by W.H. Auden is death causes heartbreak. A man in the poem passed away and the speaker is heartbroken because of it. Three poetic devices that support this theme are metaphors, hyperboles, and imagery.

 The first device that supports the theme in “Funeral Blues” is metaphors. A metaphor is a comparison of two unlike things without using the words like or as. “He was my North, my South, my East and West” (9). This metaphor means the man in the poem who died was the speakers everything. “My noon, my midnight, my talk, my song” (11). This person was the speakers whole life. They lived for him and did a lot together. Through the use of metaphors the speaker conveys how important this man was to them.

 The second device that supports the theme in “Funeral Blues” is hyperboles. A hyperbole is an extreme exaggeration. “Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone” (1). The speaker wishes for time to stop and doesn’t want to talk to anyone. They don’t want to go on without thei man who died. “The stars are not wanted now; put out every one” (13). The light in the speakers life is gone. They don’t want any light to shine with their soulmate gone. “Pack up the moon and dismantle the sun” (14). Night or day doesn’t matter to the speaker anymore. The hyperboles the author uses in the poem show how much the speaker misses and loves the man who died.

 The third device that supports the theme in “Funeral Blues” is imagery. Imagery is the use of sense images in a poem to create a picture with words. “Bring out the coffin, let the mourners come” (4). This line helps you see that the man the speaker is talking about is dead. “Let the traffic policemen wear black cotton gloves” (8). You can visualize the policemen with black gloves on. The use of imagery creates pictures in your mind about what happened in the poem.

 The author's use of metaphors, hyperboles, and imagery show how heartbroken and lonely the speaker is without the man who died. The theme of death causes heartbreak is very true for this poem. The speaker really misses them and don’t know what to do now that they’re gone.