

UNIT 3 *What We Keep* Poetry Connection

A STEM school

FROEBEL
BILINGUAL SCHOOL

Home of the Space Generation



**BE
READ THIS POEM**

WITH
JIM SOTO

SPEAK YOUR MIND

Mirrors. They are everywhere. Billions use them several times on a daily basis.

Some, multiple times during the day.

How useful are they?

Do mirrors always give an accurate reflection?

Can mirrors eventually become “dangerous” for some?

How may poetry be a mirror?

Take a minute to answer in the notebook.

THRILLER



Thriller is the name of a television program that ran from 1960 to 1962; it was similar to the more well-known *Twilight Zone* series and usually focused on ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances. The poem begins summarizing the plot of one particular episode. Weirddness will ensue.

PLAYING WIT' WORDS

“Beware: Do Not Read This Poem” employs colloquial language, nontraditional spelling, innovative typography, and unexpected rhythms. The poem is a cautionary tale whose title is a warning. It begins by describing a vain “ol woman” whose obsession with mirrors leads to her disappearance. It has no set pattern of rhyme or established regular stanzas or meter, which makes it a free verse poem.



VICAP ALERT
MISSING PERSONS – Springfield, MO
Attention: Missing Person, Homicide, Violent Crime, Crime Analysis Units



LAST SEEN ON 06/07/1992 IN SPRINGFIELD, MO

SHERILL E. LEVITT SUZANNE E. STREETER STACY K. MCCALL

The concept presented here is that a poem is an entity able to engulf and devour the reader—another kind of disappearance. Finally, in the last lines, Reed offers grim statistics concerning the number of people who disappeared during just one year in the United States.



LITERARY CONCEPT

Metaphor

Is a comparison in which one thing is spoken of or written about as if it were another. You might say, "The poem is described as hungry; it draws in the reader's feet, and then the legs. It reminds me of a monster eating its victim. The poem is compared to a hungry, greedy monster."

LITERARY SKILL

Diction

Refers to an author's word choice, an important aspect of a writer's style. For example, Reed uses an everyday vocabulary and casually abbreviates many words. What effect does that have on the tone of the poem? Why would the poet choose to write with this style? Below is a small list of Reed's diction choices as well as their meanings. Find other examples as you read the poem.

Diction Choice	Meaning
abt	about
w/	with
ol	old
back off	leave alone
woman/s	woman's

ASSESSMENT

After reading pgs. 207-211, in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Metaphor** - In lines 25–26, the speaker in Reed’s poem says “back off from this poem / it is a greedy mirror.” How does the poet develop this metaphor throughout the poem? In what way is a poem like a mirror? Cite examples from the poem in your explanation.



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