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100

A Response to "Suicide's Note"

This short poem by Langston Hughes says a lot in one sentence. He displays his theme of temptation, lure, disguise, death, and suicide strongly in those three lines. Typically before someone is about to commit suicide they write a note, explaining and expressing themselves. Just by analyzing the title, I knew death / the leaving of earth would be involved. This person was obviously by a river and drowned to death. Hughes also displays personification when he writes, the river asked for a kiss. Falling for temptation, this person falls face forward and never comes up again. I noticed how even though the river was described as cool and calm, it still caused death. ✓

I can slightly relate to this poem, although it is only a vague memory for me but a vivid one for my mother. I was only a little girl with my family behind my great-grandmother's house in San Jose, Costa Rica. Being a careless and excited child, while running I fell face forward in the kiddie pool. My mom tells me all the time, she just wondered for a split second where I was and turned around to see my arms wailing in the air. She cannot stress to me enough that if she never wondered where I disappeared to, I would have drowned. That thought is very scary and makes me realize that life is very precious and could be gone in an instant second.

This poem also speaks to many readers because there are a lot of people in this world that also have had similar near death experiences with water. ✓