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The Systems of Life

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The Systems of Life

School is filled with many decisions and paths to take. When faced with a decision to choose the path of acceptance from others or the path of whom I want to be, I choose the one best for me. One system lead to happiness for only a split second but with regret in the end. The other path lead to hardships at the beginning but pride in whom I have become. I choose the system that is beneficial in the end. In Robert Penn Warren's short poem "Watershed," descriptive imagery and strong metaphors contribute to the concept of decisions and determination to illustrate life.

Imagery is very apparent and the poet uses many different types. Throughout the whole poem, visual imagery is used to describe a nature scene. As you read, you can picture the morning mist over the water and the sunset that hawks fly through. It allows the reader to picture the scene and background. It also allows them to have a better understanding of what is actually happening in the poem. When the poet writes "Have felt the shudder and the sweat of stone", this can be described as a tactile type of imagery. The poet is trying to explain that life throws you curve balls and disasters in life, but it means we have to work harder to get out of the tough situations. It's about how you react to the situation and the act of not freezing when a tragedy hits. You must persevere in tough situations and blossom at the end.

The poet also uses other types of figurative language to express the meaning of the poem. Metaphors are used in order to compare something to another. It creates a better understanding of the topic at hand. The line "The mist is furled" is an example of a metaphor. The denotation of

furled means something that is compacted and securely fastened. So the line is saying that the mist is bound securely together. But if we take the connotation of this line, we can classify the mist as our life. It is saying that our life is compacted by the troubles we encounter on a day to day basis. Some are monumental compared to others, but we all look at problems as a reason to stop. We mustn't do that because success is on the other side. Great things come to people to work for them. A goal in life is to take your problems and turn them into a positive aspect in life.

The one-word title of this poem expresses denotations and connotations that describe the whole theme of this poem. The denotation can be described as a ridge of high land dividing two areas that are drained by different river systems. The actual connotation of this single word means so much more than how nature uses it. There are two paths to take in life. Even though they may look the same, they are very different. One may be negative and the other one positive. One may seem like it will benefit you in the beginning but result in a terrible ending while the other is bumpy in the beginning but ends with happiness. Life can be hard at times and a struggle to get through, but you have the power to choose which system you take. Our past is what creates us and shapes us as to who we are today. Life gives you two rivers to go down, which system will you take?