

Abstract to Concrete



Practicing the techniques of
summary and synthesis
with Lucien Stryk's poem
"Cherries"



Summary with Signal In/Out



- Signal In – identifies the source
- Identifies major themes expressed in the poem.
- Signal Out – uses parenthetical notation to connect source to the works cited page and give a page number reference. Short poems only need use page numbers, but longer poems must use line numbers in the parenthetical notation e.g., (Stryk I. 4) or (Stryk II. 4-5) for more than 1 line.

In Lucien Stryk's short poem "Cherries," several different damaging emotions fill the speaker. Greed is the primary feeling he expresses, and though he is aware of the suffering of others, he cannot share with them his bag of cherries. He says he has more than enough, but his hunger for more is like an addiction, gluttony and insensitivity to the plight of others the result of his greed. The destructive nature of his actions effect all levels of society, on the local and global levels. At the end of the poem, the speaker acknowledges his actions, and how "cheap" he can buy happiness, at the expense of others (Stryk 565).



MLA Works Cited Entry



- Title of page
- Author's name
- Title of work by the author
- Information about the anthology
- Page # that the work appears on in the anthology

Work Cited

Stryk, Lucien. "Cherries." *The Power of Language; The Language of Power*. Ed. Jessica Isaacs, et al. 2nd ed. Boston: Pearson Custom, 2006. 565.

Print.



Synthesis to External Issue



Ties the poem to the current economic crisis in America:

In the current American economic crisis, several factors outside of most people's control have contributed to the severe recession we now face, such as deregulation of businesses that allowed for the most greedy conduct on the part of bankers, Wall Street, and corporate America. However, average Americans must also take some blame. Like the speaker in Lucien Stryk's poem, "Cherries," most Americans have long lived at a standard far beyond necessity. That does not mean that they all are rolling in cash, but compared to the rest of the world, even Americans living a very modest life style still have much more than they really need to survive.



Synthesis to External Issue



Mentions how American greed and insensitivity contributed to the current crisis:

Stryk calls attention to this when his speaker contrasts his own lust for more cherries, when he has plenty, to the situation facing people around him (565). A woman goes bad, children cry in hunger, and countries fight each other, but the speaker does nothing to alleviate these tragic situations, even though Stryk makes it clear that sharing the cherries could help (565). Though the speaker has enough to fill his need and help others, he has become addicted to the cherries and cannot let them go (565). This is clearly a statement on the excess of everything in America: food, money, clothes, water, medicine, etc.



Synthesis to External Issue



Mentions how living less greedy lives can help resolve crisis:

If America lived more frugally, the country would have enough to provide a good quality of life for her people and also improve the status of not only those in distant places, but also those misfortunate ones within her own borders that often become invisible.