

Symbolism in “The Pitcher” by Robert Frances

In literature, poetic devices are very important to use in poems, without poetic devices poems are usually monotonous and dull. Poetic devices like symbolism make an impact on the reader and this helps the poet to convey more vibrant meaning. In the poem, “The Pitcher” the author talked about the art of the pitcher, he believes that all people can polish their talents and that art is always discovered. Poems are sometimes complex and take extra effort to understand the hidden meaning whether literal or non-literal. This is the art of writing poems artistically, every artist has his style to write the poems.

The poet has done a great job writing this poem in a sports context to grab the attention of game lovers and literature lovers at the same time. In the first two lines of the poem, the poet refers to the art of the pitcher, according to him everyone has some art show and everyone is an artist. The poem by Robert Frances “The Pitcher” has a literal and metaphorical meaning. The literal meaning in this poem can be seen as a relationship between the batter and the pitcher in the game of baseball. In the first lines, the poet explains the art of the pitcher in a literal sense. He tries to explain the way pitchers play in the baseball game, he also explains that the pitcher does not aim to hit the mark but to avoid it as his own technique. His targeted audience can be baseball players who can relate this poem with their art of playing a game. The relationship between the batter and the pitcher is indicated in the poem. The pitcher does not play in an ordinary way; the poet tries to explain in this poem that the pitcher tries to avoid the expected goal but he has a technique to change the attention on the things that are avoided (Meyer).

The author has explained how the pitcher avoids the mark to hit and has the passion to avoid the obvious target or goal. These first four lines indicate that the poet can be a huge fan of the baseball game or he has observed this closely to write about it. The sports lover can do the commentary about the techniques of the player or only players can understand the way of playing of other players. The poet has done a tremendous job to write this baseball poem to grab the attention of sports lovers as well as those who take interest after reading this poem.

The poet explains the close observation of the pitcher technique of playing in the playground.

The poet explains that the normal pitchers throw to be comprehended but he throws to be misunderstood. This indicates that the pitcher wants to mislead the batter and he wants to throw to distract him which is the unique technique of playing baseball. "Yet not too much. Not errant, arrant, wild/ But every seeming aberration willed," (Frances 7-8) these lines are very important in this poem because it tells the further technique of the batter. The poet has chosen the good vocabulary that makes this poem exceptional, he indicates that the batter is not dumb but he knows better what he is doing and he aberrates the batter intentionally.

The metaphorical work in this poem is much deeper than just a baseball game. This is the specialty of a poet to write something that can be comprehended literally as well as metaphorically. The poems give people pleasure when something deep is hidden in the poem to comprehend and the same happens in the poem "The Pitcher." The metaphorical meaning in this poem is the artist and his artistic techniques. Everyone cherishes the art and the artists no matter he is a baseball player or portrait artist. Frances uses very strong diction with good vocabulary, and a two lines simple rhyme to convey the message of art through the baseball sport.

Frances has used very interesting vocabulary to portray the baseball scene. He uses eccentric words to show things in one way but in reality, means much deeper. In this second line of the

poem, the poet indicates that the pitcher tries to hit aiming at the strike zone but he intends to throw where the batter would not expect and would miss the ball. He tries to portray how baseball players as a discourse community try to communicate, their communication is shown in two ways. Firstly, the pitcher wants to mislead the batter so that he misses the goal. Secondly, he wants to communicate with the batter to make him understand his next moves. This poem is short but still leaves a mark on the reader's mind in two ways.

The genuine and realistic baseball portrayal can touch people's hearts and the metaphorical meaning of cherishing art can also impress people a lot. The poet has referred to the things that he means something else like he portrays that the pitcher misleads the batter. Frances wants to explain that the pitcher is trying to throw the ball where the batter does not expect, he would hit to misguide the batter. The pitcher wants to do something exceptionally to trick the batter. In the last line, the pitcher is having the communication with the batter but his eccentric technique to play misguides the batter and he understands his aim late. This poem is a piece of art itself, the way Robert Frances wrote is tremendous. The poet wants to highlight and appreciate all the artists in the world and their art through symbolic deep meaning; because this poem seems ordinary and simple at very first sight but gives a deeper meaning.

Works Cited

Frances, Robert. "The Pitcher." *Literature to Go*, edited by Michael Meyer and D. Quentin Miller, 4th ed., Bedford/St. Martin's, 2020, pp. 490.

Meyer, Michael. *Literature to go*. Macmillan, 2010. ISBN: 0-312-62412-3.



ScholarlyHelp