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It is often said that poetry is a clarification of life. In his highly visual and somber poem "Evening Hawk", Robert Penn Warren uses the twilight flight of a hawk as a metaphor for the "scyth[ing] down of another day" and describes the "unforgiving" passage of time. Although the poem's title alludes to the hawk, the poem's central idea is the slow but steady passage of time, aided by the speaker's vivid descriptions and extended metaphors.

"Evening Hawk" opens as the speaker artfully sets up the flight of the hawk from dying "plane of light to light." The entire stanza is one periodic sentence, which not only builds tension but also contributes to the idea of time's slow but steady passage. The hawk's ^{"honed steel edge"} motion is described as "scyth[ing]" (connoting images of sharpness) and his flight causes the "crashless fall of stalks of time." The hawk, like the day, "knows neither time nor error" and simply goes on about its business. Other objects associated with flight such as a "thrush", a "bat" and a "star" are also related to time and its passage. The poem ends with ~~perhaps~~ ^{two images} that best support the ~~speaker's~~ ^{poem's} message - the rotation of the earth and history dripping like a "leaking pipe."

Much of the poem's mood is conveyed through the speaker's choice of adjectives ^{to describe the scene} and his vivid imagery. The last light of the setting sun, for instance, is described as a "tumultuous dialanche" lending a somber feel to the poem. The connotations associated with "scythes" and "steel edge" lead readers to feel a conclusive

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and definitive end to the day. The hawk's eye is described as "unforgiving" much like the passage of time who waits for no one. The diction contributes greatly to the mood of the poem and establishes the serious tone from the "Evening Hawk"'s very first and ominous stanza.

The adjectives and imagery which convey the poem's mood also contribute to "Evening Hawk's" extended metaphor for the passage of time - the central message of the poem. A hawk is an animal; it experiences no emotions and ~~who~~, in the poem, does not know that its flight is causing the "crashless fall of the stalks of time." Like time itself, the hawk simply passes of its own accord. The bat is also stated as having "ancient and immense" wisdom while the speaker alludes to the sagacious Plato while describing a star. The poem leads to ^{metaphor} describing the earth on ~~its~~ its axis and ~~the~~ ^{metaphorically equating} ~~the~~ ~~circle~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~earth~~ ~~of~~ ~~history~~ ~~the~~ ~~water~~ to the steady leaking of water. All of the poem's metaphors (the major literary device) implore readers to ponder the indiscriminate and slow and steady passage of time.

~~Answer~~ Robert Penn Warren's "Evening Hawk" provides readers with a clarification of the passage of time in life; it is as precise as a scythe, as regular as the passing of each day, as unconcerned with human interest as a hawk and as steady as a leaking faucet. "Evening Hawk" effectively uses somber diction and metaphors to describe the inevitable and steady passage of time.

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Powerful and solitary, the hawk appears often in literature as a symbol of magnificence -- of simplicity, of glory, and of the steady march of life. Robert Penn Warren uses the hawk to convey the latter, painting a breathtaking picture of a beautiful bird flying in the sunset -- a scene representing the inexorable fading of a long day. With strong imagery to set the stage, diction to create a dark mood, and comparative devices to convey meaning, Warren effectively utilizes language to portray the striking power of a hawk soaring at sunset.

Warren's imagery evokes a scene of golden afternoon light fading into gray-blue dusk and finally to the blackness of night -- all with a bird of prey soaring in the foreground. The strong verbs and nouns -- "dipping," "geometries," and "orbicels" -- fill out the imagery with visual cues, creating a complete snapshot in time in the phrase "wings dipping through / Geometries and orbicels that the sun builds." Similarly, the feel of the hawk's graceful movements are clearly shown as it "climbs] the last light" -- a description not only for the visual sense, but also striking the kinesthetic. This kinesthetic description is shown in the strong imagery of the second to last stanza as the "last thrush is still, -the last bat / Now cruises," where once again language and imagery, facilitated by the verb "cruises," create a detailed description of the creatures' movements in the night.

Imagery gives way to mood as diction creates a dark, powerful



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Feeling of inevitability. "While the hawk soars, the light underneath him fades; and Time remains "unforgiving" while the sunset "sings into shadow." The choice of "unforgiving" and "sings" give a sense of power to Time while the word "shadow" give a sense of darkness and powerlessness to the reader — effectively building the feel of wide blackness and inevitability. Similarly, the words "ancient," "immense," and "drip in darkness" create a wideness and infinite blackness that contribute greatly to the mood of the poem — dark, infinite, unstoppable.

Time, shown by the hawk, is unstoppable — like the hawk at sunset. With metaphors and simile, this central idea of the poem is established clearly. The comparison of the sunset to "the last tumultuous avalanche of light" shows the slow and steady march that Time takes — a march that is inevitable and unstoppable like an avalanche. Similarly, the description of the hawk as a reaper, with its wings as "scythes" cutting down with "honed steel-edge" the "stalks of time" place the hawk as a precursor and cause of Time's march. The hawk's flight, thus represents the ending of the day, as inevitable and woven into life as flying is woven into a hawk's instincts.

The description of a hawk flying in sunset reaches far past the simple visual scene. It reaches down into the depths of mood and meaning to create a representation of time passing, of a long day ending. Warren's use of language conveys this

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perfectly, showing the dark and immovable Plane of Positioning where the hawk flies. Thus, the evening hawk is truly a symbol of the sunset and the end of day.

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Question |

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Robert Penn Warren's poem "Evening Hawk" is a clarification of life, a sad lament about the slow decay of society. Despite the many lessons that time and history provide to the world has never learned its error. Just as ~~the~~ "The hawk comes" at ~~the~~ "The last tumultuous avalanche of / Light" so too is the world living in its last moments of light before it "swings / Into ~~stark stark~~ shadow".

The hawk flying in the evening sky is a symbol of the dark times to come. ~~A~~ hawk is a fearsome creature, and its approach is something most other creatures dread. The timing of the hawk's arrival ~~is~~ gives a foreboding sense of the darkness to come, as it is evening. The juxtaposition of both the hawk and the evening convey an ominous message about some horror that has yet to come. Indeed, with the arrival of the hawk comes "The ~~crashless~~ fall of stalks of time", stalks "heavy with the gold of our error". The errors are plentiful and the light is slowly leaving. ~~As the~~ Indeed, as the hawk "is climbing the last light" "The world... swings / Into shadow".

The problem that faces the world is that the errors have ~~never~~ been corrected. No one has bothered to learn from the mistakes in time. The glorious light of civilization



Question 1

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is slowly being replaced by a shadow of ignorance. The wisdom of the past is slowly being lost to future generations. Thus ~~the~~ the sun is soon setting on ~~the~~ the world and the world falls into another dark age.

Yet the speaker does leave a bit of hope. A hope that despite the gloom fate that awaits the world that all is not lost. The last stanza provides that hope that we just might hear "history / drip in darkness like a leaking pipe in the cellar". Perhaps that sound may be heard and ~~that~~ heeded. Indeed the "star" with its "immense" "~~wisdom~~" ~~does~~ ~~shine~~ is steady and does shine, ~~not~~ even in the darkest of nights.

The speaker's description of an evening hawk serves as a harbinger of what is to come. Although the hawk and the setting sun provide ominous signs of what is coming for the world, hope remains that one day we might "think".

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Question #1


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Writers often express their views of society through comparison with seemingly different ideas. Such parallelism helps readers better grasp authors' intent in a literary piece. In the poem "Evening Hawk," author Robert Penn Warren uses powerful imagery and ~~an~~ highly connotative diction to contrast the wisdom of nature with the sin of mankind.

The piece opens ~~very~~ with very strong visual imagery, "wings dipping through" (1) the evening sky's "black angularity of shadow" (3). The alliteration of "guttural gorge" (5) ~~forces~~ ~~the~~ emphasizes the scene by forcing readers to slow down as they read the line. ~~The speaker~~

This very dark, heavy imagery serves as a sharp and ironic contrast with the introduction of "Time" (9) as ~~is~~ "heavy with the gold of our error" (10). The "unforgiven" (13) world is ominously presented as coming to "drip in darkness like a leaking pipe in the cellar" (21). ~~The speaker~~ Through this striking visual imagery, the speaker presents his prediction for the human race.

Connotative language also significantly contributes to the strength and meaning of the poem. The wing of the hawk metaphorically "scythes" (7) the evening sky; ~~is~~ a "honed steel-edge" (8). This implies power and precision. ~~above~~ The natural world, ~~is~~ symbolized by the hawk, ~~is~~ "knows neither Time nor error" (12) and is "unforgiving" (13); nature is above "our error" (10).



Question #1

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At the same time, the poem's diction evokes a very ominous sense of an imminent ~~and~~ doom of the human world. As the hawk is "unforgiving" (13), so ~~is~~ does "the world, unforgiven, [swing]/into shadow" (13-14). Nature is presented as "ancient... ~~immense or already~~ immense" (17), "steady" (18), wise. Human "history" (20) is meanwhile doomed ~~to~~ in evil to ~~darkness~~, ~~darkness~~ "grind" (20) wretchedly in "shadow" (14) and "darkness" (21).

Authors frequently use extended metaphor to more clearly convey their ~~is~~ ideas and views. Robert Penn Warren in "Evening Hawk" ^{uses imagery to} ~~express~~ his prediction for the fate of the human race through its contrast with the steadfastness of nature.

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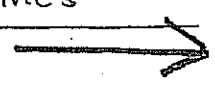
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BB₁

In his poem "Evening Hawk" Robert Penn Warren uses a mixture of concrete and abstract diction along with evocative visual imagery to convey the minute significance of mankind in comparison to nature. Warren depicts a hawk soaring across the evening sky to emphasize the passage of ~~time~~ and detached disposition of Time. ~~His~~ His tone is full of reverence while he expresses the attitude that humans belong to only a small part of the world's history.

Warren's diction is mostly polysyllabic and concrete when describing the hawk's flight and the sun's path. In stanza one, he entwines ~~refer~~ mathematical references while portraying the "Geometries and orchids that the sunset builds" and "the peak's black angularity of shadow." Later he mentions "the gold of our error" regarding mankind's failures in the past. The sun, "who knows neither Time nor error," will continue its cyclic existence whether or not humans survive.

Much of the imagery is visual except for Warren's last stanza in which we are to "hear / The earth grind on its axis, or history / Drip in darkness like a leaking pipe in the cellar." If human history is but a ~~leak~~ few drops sprung from a leak in a basement, the world's history, as well as nature's, constitutes for the supply of water flowing through every house. The water represents history, and the unpredictable, capricious nature of history. ~~The hawk~~ Warren portrays the hawk as a powerful field worker who "scythes down another day" as if every day is just ^{one} stalk in a bountiful field. The oxymoron of Time's



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The author of this poem starts with the phrase "from plane of light to plane", the "plane of light" creates an image of a mysterious and glorious realm filled with golden light, from where the hawk flies to another plane, which makes the Evening Hawk godlike. From line 3 to line 5, we get the image of the Evening Hawk gliding, "riding" the peak's shadow and the "last tumultuous avalanche of light" over the vast forests and rivers below. This image makes us feel the hawk's unnatural grace and superiority over everything else.

Next, we learn about his wing, which "scythes down another day, his motion is that of the honed steel-edge", this makes the Evening Hawk not only graceful, but also very agile.

In line 11, as the hawk is "climbing the last light", we are reminded of the word "sunset" in line 2, and now we see the hawk ~~is~~ flying into the setting sun. And as it leaves us, its eye is "unforgiving" and our world is "unforgiven", ~~and~~ which creates a sense of the Evening Hawk's importance and the worthlessness of everything else in the world.

The hawk has gone, and now the "last bat" flies through the still night. The stars move steadily over



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WWW₂

the mountains as they always have, and the night is so still and lifeless it's as if we could hear the "earth grind on its axis," ~~or history~~

This image the last two stanzas created sharply contrasts that ~~rest~~ of the rest of the poem, as the glorious hawk glides through the light-filled air in the sunset.

The phrases "The crashless fall of stalks of Time" in line 9, "Who knows neither time nor error" in line 12, ~~and~~ concluded by "history drip in darkness like a leaking pipe in the cellar" ~~and~~ emphasizes the Evening Hawk's divinity, immortality, and timelessness.

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Paris, Egypt, Rome these are some scenes that one would think are beautiful and breath-taking. In "Evening Hawk" by Robert Penn Warren we encounter a scene of excitement and wonder. Through the use imagery, diction, and tone we are able to understand and illustrate the situation.

Warren relies heavily on imagery to illustrate the scene at hand. He uses imagery to emphasize on how the hawk moves and describes what he is doing "climbing the last light." Through imagery we can take the situation Warren has painted and understand the ~~scene~~^{scene} we are no longer bystanders, but are actually brought into the scene and feel the excitement, the thrill. The hawk rides the light with immensity ~~to~~ as if to reach heaven or some greater force. Creating a thrilling mood that keeps wanting to see more.

Warren ~~uses~~^{uses} diction to create a thrilling mood that completely surrounds the scene. The hawk seems to be thriving for some attention or a greater force like heaven. The "light" seems to be what the hawk is "riding," "climbing" and "dipping." Through these words we get a sense that the hawk perhaps represents a universal ambition: to reach that "light" at our hour of darkness when it comes down on us.

Furthermore, through^a tone of excitement and perhaps curiosity Warren adds to the mood of the scene. The fact that the hawk is reaching for that light alludes to the gates of Heaven that ~~so~~ many wish to enter once they

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pass the other side. The metaphors help to create the tone and emphasize on reaching the light of immense wisdom.

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The complementary tones of excitement and anticipation help create the mood. ~~Excitement~~ Tones of excitement create a sense of suspense. Anticipation creates a sense of urgency.

Mr. Warren's use of imagery helps enlighten the reader to his work's meaning. In the beginning of the poem Mr. Warren speaks of an ~~incoming~~ incoming force that we eventually learn is a hawk. The hawk is a force of nature as it sweeps over the mountains with the ending of the light. Warren does this to create a near-mystical quality about the bird and further create a feeling of anticipation. In the middle of the poem Mr. Warren speaks of the hawk's nature. Warren does this to show that the hawk is a wild animal, and by being one its life is a struggle to survive enhancing the mood of urgency. In the end of the poem Mr. Warren shows the hawk in a new light as a natural force of the world when day turns to night. Warren shows that nature is steady and ever-changing with the march of time finally building up to a crescendo leaving the reader with a ~~strong~~ feeling of both excitement and the anticipation of what could be coming next.

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Question 1

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In the poem, Evening Hawk, ~~the author~~ the author uses descriptive language to describe the scene. By using precise detail in the passage the author gives off a ^{tone} ~~sense~~ of indifference to time while conveying the theme of

The author starts off the poem by describing personifying the sunset. "Geometries and orchids that the sunset builds." (2) He personifies the world giving it manufacturing qualities. He also personifies time. "the crassie, crashless fall of stalks of Time." (A) He capitalizes Time and therefore makes it a ~~proper~~ name. The indifference to time tone comes from the last line of the poem "Or history drip in darkness like a leaking pipe in the cellar." (2) ~~Time~~ Time is invaluable to us all and without time history would be nothing.

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