

Claire
English 9
November 18, 2016

Song:Celia

By: Ben Jonson

The poem that I will be analyzing is Song:Celia by Ben Jonson. This poem is about a man who wrote a letter to Celia to try and win her over/ convince her that they belong together. This poem addresses the social phenomenon of falling in love. During this poem the narrator is a man that is in love with Celia and wants to prove to her that they can be together. I believe that the man wrote a letter to her and this is her reading it in his voice as though he is talking to her.

Some of the word choice is definitely lets you know a bit about this man and about Celia, you get a tiny glimpse of their personality for example "Why should we defer our joys?/Fame and rumors are but toys./Cannot we delude the eyes/Of a few poor household spies," this lets us know that the man who wrote the poem is a lot more carefree he doesn't care that people will stare or maybe start rumours he just wants to be with her whereas Celia, is a bit more anxious and doesn't want people to see and stare and start rumours. This poem sort of address the cliches like something that he knows won't happen. Like for example "Time will not be ours forever;" in my opinion thinking that you can be together happy forever is a cliché but he knows that their relationship won't be like that, so perhaps this is him accepting that it won't be perfect but, for some of the time it will be great.

This poems tone is slightly changed throughout the poem. In the beginning it was sort of playful and lighthearted and the reason I say this is because he said "Come, my Celia, let us prove,/While we can, the sports of love;" when he compared love to a sport I thought that maybe he thinks it's just a game but as he kept going it good at bit more serious and bold "Why should we defer our joys?/Fame and rumor are but toys./Cannot we delude the eyes/Of a few poor household spies,/Or his easier ears beguile,/So removèd by our wile?/"Tis no sin love's fruit to steal;/But the sweet thefts to reveal,/To be taken, to be seen,/These have crimes accounted

been." towards the end of the poem it just seems a bit more serious as though he was seriously considering to make it work and he wanted to prove to her that he doesn't care what people think. Throughout this poem the stanza length stays relatively the same at about one sentence per stanza, within those stanzas starting at the third stanza there is a AABB rhyme scheme with the last word rhyming in each sentence. Because this poem uses a rhyme scheme it takes form as an closed poem.

This poem does not contain any allusions that I'm aware of, neither does it use alliteration, onomatopoeia or assonance. The poet does however include figurative language such as metaphors and irony, the metaphor being that love is sport and the irony being that he is trying to convince Celia that they should be together but at the same time he is saying some stuff that sounds unconvincing like "Time will not be ours forever;/But if once we lose this light,/’Tis with us perpetual night./Cannot we delude the eyes/Of a few poor household spies," it's just ironic that he's trying to convince but at the same time he seems very unsure. Further prove that he is unsure in this poem there is lots of commas, perhaps this represents the fact that he takes moments to really think and make sure this is what he wants because he is unsure. I think that personally the writer chose an excellent title because it gives us a bit of information as to what's going on by the title being Song:Celia we know that this is not him just talking to Celia this is him singing to her or her reading it in his voice.

The poet in my opinion does succeed in recreating his experiences within the reader because I feel like I really want this man to win Celia's heart because from what I read he seems to care but, it also makes me sort of unsure about this man because he seems unsure. This poem made me sort of rethink what I think about love and that I should really think harder about it instead of just acknowledging that's it's there in the real world, after all in seems like there are lots of different sides to love besides what we see in the movies.