

QuickWrite: Point of View in Stanza 1 of “O’ Beautiful Storm”

(Example, for Teacher Reference)

Prompt: How does the speaker’s point of view influence how the events are described in Stanza 1 of “O’ Beautiful Storm”?

1. What is the point of view in this poem? Underline the correct answer.
 - A. first person
 - B. second person
 - C. third person limited
 - D. third person omniscient
2. What event is described in Stanza 1 of “O’ Beautiful Storm”?
What is it about?

Sample student response: The storm Hurricane Katrina and the destruction it caused.

3. How does the poet feel about it? What words and phrases tell you that?

Sample student response: The poet tells us, “I got the Rain in my veins ...,” which suggests he thinks the storm will be something that is always in him and he will never forget. He also says, “The flood water in my blood makes my heart beat harder,” which suggests that thinking of it makes him afraid, since our hearts beat faster when we are afraid. We also know he felt that the death and destruction from the storm were disturbing because he says, “I’ve got the scent of the death and decay in the wind/Sinking into my nose and under my skin,” which suggests he is haunted by it. He doesn’t feel it should be forgotten because he says, “But don’t let her go.”

4. How does the speaker's point of view influence how the events are described in Stanza 1 of "O' Beautiful Storm"?

Sample student response: In Stanza 1 of "O' Beautiful Storm" by Gian Smith, the poet describes his personal reaction to Hurricane Katrina. He describes how he can't forget the smell of the "death and decay." As a result of the first person point of view, we understand how much of an impact the storm had on the poet. The poet's description of his thoughts and feelings, including his suggestion of fear and how he won't and doesn't want to forget it, helps us understand how terrifying it must have been for the people who went through it. This glimpse into what things were like after Hurricane Katrina helps the reader to feel more connected to the poet and also gives the reader a lot of sympathy for the things he and others went through after the natural disaster.