Poetry and Film

Taking a Closer Look at the Establishing Shot

Because I could not stop for Death –

He kindly stopped for me –

The Carriage held but just Ourselves –

And Immortality.

--Emily Dickinson

The art of losing isn't hard to master; so many things seem filled with the intent to be lost that their loss is no disaster.

--Elizabeth Bishop

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,In the forests of the night;What immortal hand or eye,Could frame thy fearful symmetry?

--William Blake

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The world is too much with us; late and soon,

Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;—

Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
--William Wordsworth

Double, double toil and trouble;

9 Fire burn and caldron bubble. Fillet of a fenny snake, In the caldron boil and bake:

--William Shakespeare

I've known rivers:

11 I've known rivers ancient as the world and older than the flow of human blood in human veins.

My soul has grown deep like the rivers.

--Langston Hughes

I met a traveller from an antique land,Who said—"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone

Stand in the desert. . . .

--Percy Bysshe Shelley

It was many and many a year ago, In a kingdom by the sea,

That a maiden there lived whom you may know

By the name of Annabel Lee;

--Edgar Allan Poe

When, in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes,

I all alone beweep my outcast state, And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,

And look upon myself and curse my fate, --WIlliam Shakespeare

When day comes, we ask ourselves:

Where can we find light
In this never-ending shade?
The loss we carry, a sea we must wade.
--Amanda Gorman

I have been one acquainted with the night.

I have walked out in rain—and back in rain.
I have outwalked the furthest city light.

I have looked down the saddest city lane.

--Robert Frost

My mother and I debate:

12 we could sell the black walnut tree to the lumberman, and pay off the mortgage.

--Mary Oliver

A roll of the dice determines your fate!

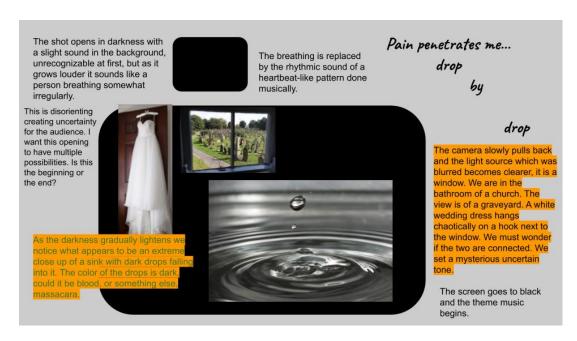


Let's take an idea...

Losing someone you love can cause a deep hurt within, the pain, lasting and constant, becomes a steady presence like a slowly dripping water faucet.

Not bad, certainly a pretty insightful statement about the emotional pain of loss. But the poet's job is to take this shared feeling and try to present it in a certain, undeniable and identifiable truth. Here is the Greek poet Sappho working out this same idea but in poetic form.

Pain penetrates me... drop by



Poet's Tools Film Maker's Tools Set Location and Tone

Sound Frame Word Shot

Phrase / sentence Sequence Structure Sequence

Paying attention to

Camera position

Angle
Props
Lighting
sound/music

Offer a Purpose for your choice (Why?)

Offer notes to the side of each element in your drawing of the

establishing shot. Refer to the example.

Rince. Repeat.

drop