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## Summary of Travel

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The poem "Travel" by Edna St. Vincent Millay expresses the speaker's deep fascination and longing for train journeys. Although the railroad track is far away and no train passes by during the day, the speaker hears the whistle and imagines the train's presence. At night, even when the surroundings are quiet and still, the speaker sees the red cinders in the sky and hears the engine steaming. The poem conveys a warm feeling of friendship but also a strong desire to explore new places by train, regardless of the destination.

## Key Elements

- **Theme:** The joy and longing for travel, the allure of adventure, and the warmth of friendship.
- **Imagery:** Sounds of the train whistle, visual of red cinders in the sky, and the quiet night.
- **Tone:** Reflective and hopeful.

## Textual Evidence

"Yet there isn't a train goes by all day / But I hear its whistle shrieking." – This line shows the speaker's imagination and longing for travel.

"My heart is warm with the friends I make, / And better friends I'll not be knowing; / Yet there isn't a train I wouldn't take, / No matter where it's going." – This expresses the speaker's affection for friends and eagerness to explore beyond familiar places.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- What does the speaker hear during the day when no train passes?
- Describe the feelings the speaker has about friends.

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain the significance of the train whistle in the poem.
- How does the poet use imagery to describe the night?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze the theme of longing and adventure in the poem "Travel." Use examples from the text.
- Discuss how the poem reflects the human desire to explore beyond the familiar.

## Answer Key

- **Level 1:** The speaker hears the train's whistle shrieking during the day. The speaker feels warmth and affection for the friends made, considering them the best friends.
- **Level 2:** The train whistle symbolizes the call of adventure and the desire to travel. The poet uses imagery of red cinders in the sky and the quiet night to create a vivid picture of the train's presence even when it is not visible.
- **Level 3:** The poem shows longing through the speaker's wish to take any train regardless of destination, symbolizing a desire for new experiences. It reflects the universal human urge to explore and discover beyond known boundaries.

## Quick Reference

- **Poet:** Edna St. Vincent Millay
- **Theme:** Travel, friendship, adventure
- **Literary Devices:** Imagery, symbolism
- **Important Lines:** "No matter where it's going"

## Glossary

- **Whistle:** A high-pitched sound made by a train.
- **Cinders:** Small pieces of partly burned coal or wood.
- **Steaming:** The sound or action of a steam engine.

## Literary Devices in Travel

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The poem "Travel" uses several literary devices to enhance its meaning and emotional impact. Understanding these devices helps in appreciating the poem's depth.

### Key Literary Devices

- **Imagery:** The poet creates vivid pictures through descriptions of sounds and sights, such as the "whistle shrieking" and "cinders red on the sky."
- **Symbolism:** The train symbolizes adventure, journey, and the unknown.
- **Personification:** The train's whistle and engine are given human-like qualities, making them more relatable.
- **Repetition:** The phrase "there isn't a train goes by" emphasizes the absence of the train but the speaker's strong awareness of it.

### Examples from the Poem

- "I hear its whistle shrieking" – auditory imagery.

- "I see its cinders red on the sky" – visual imagery.
- "My heart is warm with the friends I make" – metaphor for emotional warmth.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- Identify two images used in the poem.
- What does the train symbolize?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Explain how repetition is used in the poem.
- Find an example of personification in the poem.

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Discuss how imagery contributes to the mood of the poem.
- Analyze the use of symbolism and its effect on the poem's theme.

## Answer Key

- **Level 1:** Images include the whistle shrieking and cinders red on the sky. The train symbolizes adventure and the desire to explore.
- **Level 2:** Repetition of "there isn't a train goes by" highlights the speaker's longing. Personification is seen in the train's whistle being described as shrieking.
- **Level 3:** Imagery creates a vivid and reflective mood, making the reader feel the speaker's anticipation. Symbolism of the train deepens the theme of longing for new experiences.

## Quick Reference

- **Imagery:** Descriptive language appealing to senses.
- **Symbolism:** Use of symbols to represent ideas.
- **Personification:** Giving human traits to non-human things.
- **Repetition:** Repeating words for emphasis.

## Glossary

- **Imagery:** Language that creates sensory experiences.
- **Symbolism:** Representation of ideas through symbols.
- **Personification:** Attributing human qualities to objects or animals.
- **Repetition:** Repeating words or phrases for effect.

## About the Poet Edna St. Vincent Millay

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Edna St. Vincent Millay was an American poet and playwright known for her lyrical poetry and exploration of themes such as love, nature, and human emotions. She was born in 1892 and became one of the most celebrated poets of the early 20th century. Millay's poetry often reflects a deep appreciation for beauty and a strong sense of individuality.

## Key Facts

- Born: February 22, 1892
- Died: October 19, 1950
- Known for: Lyric poetry, feminist themes, and sonnets
- Awards: Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1923

## Relevance to "Travel"

Millay's poem "Travel" reflects her characteristic lyrical style and her interest in themes of adventure and emotional depth. The poem captures the universal human desire to explore and connect with others.

## Practice Set

### Level 1 – Easy

- When was Edna St. Vincent Millay born?
- What is she known for?

### Level 2 – Moderate

- Describe the main themes in Millay's poetry.
- What award did she receive for her poetry?

### Level 3 – Challenging

- Analyze how Millay's personal style influences the poem "Travel."
- Discuss the significance of Millay's contribution to modern poetry.

## Answer Key

- **Level 1:** Edna St. Vincent Millay was born in 1892. She is known for her lyric poetry and feminist themes.
- **Level 2:** Her poetry often explores love, nature, and individuality. She received the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1923.
- **Level 3:** Millay's lyrical style and emotional depth are evident in "Travel," emphasizing longing and adventure. Her work significantly influenced modern poetry by blending traditional forms with contemporary themes.

## Quick Reference

- **Born:** 1892
- **Style:** Lyric poetry

- **Awards:** Pulitzer Prize
- **Themes:** Love, nature, individuality

## Glossary

- **Lyric Poetry:** Poetry expressing personal emotions or thoughts.
- **Feminist Themes:** Ideas promoting women's rights and equality.
- **Pulitzer Prize:** Prestigious award for achievements in literature and journalism.

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