

Mrs. Rutan

AP Literature and Composition

24 October 2016

One Day at a Time

1. M**day

The weekday-who-shall-not-be-named.

Harsh. Sudden.

You know he is near, but you're not sure

Just how close he is to you.

Specializing in stealing sleep from your eyes,

He keeps you awake at night by muttering obscenities in your ears

About what he might have in store.

Early, too early, in the morning,

He lugs your tired body out of bed and into its morning routine

While sluggishly pulling the rest of the week behind him.

2. (-sday)

Quiet and easily forgotten,

Poor Tuesday lives in the constant shadow

Between the first day and the third.

Thankfully, he is not the former,

But unfortunately will never be the latter.

He is the halfway point to halfway.

3. Welcoming Wednesday

Wednesday is a safe-point, she reassures and motivates.

She lets you cry on her shoulder about what might be to come

But will also congratulate you on making it so far.

She encourages you, pats your back,

Giving you the extra boost you need to finish in one piece.

4. Thursday

Tuesday's older brother.

Easygoing, promising.

Thursday has always been the favorite brother,

Despite being

Another "*almost.*"

He is closest to the most beloved of the weekdays.

He is loved by association.

5. Finally, Friday

She welcomes you with open arms

As you arrive, exhausted by the other days.

She holds you close and,

Finally.

Gives your tired body the rest it deserves.

As she runs her cool fingers through your hair,

She warns you that this cycle will begin once more.

But her comfort deafens you.

You close your eyes and rest.

Reflection

My poem is about the five weekdays. As I go through the week, I feel as though each day has a different energy and “personality” to it. Therefore, I decided to personify the weekdays. The order of the stanzas is obviously the order of the days of the week. I played with the titles of each stanza, as well as different sentence-structures and word-choices.

1. My first stanza is the longest one in my poem. This was done to represent how long and drawn-out Mondays can feel. I also used harsher diction that is somewhat crude to the senses to associate a negative feeling with the stanza. In the title, I blurred out the word “Monday” because the first line calls it the “weekday-who-shall-not-be-named.” The asterisks in the title also make Monday seem like a curse word, so I made Monday speak obscenities while you sleep. I used words like “sluggishly” and “lugs” to represent how one feels when they wake up on a Monday morning. I gave Monday the personality of an ominous, threatening being. Everyone dreads the thought of Monday arriving, and sometimes it arrives much sooner than anticipated.
2. The title of the second stanza is a play on words with “two” and “Tuesday.” I used two sentences to also push this “two” theme. The use of two sentences also represents how quickly this day passes by. This stanza provides a tone shift from suspenseful and ominous to a more calm and sympathetic tone. The diction used in this stanza is boring and dull, just as Tuesdays feel to me. But, I also included “quiet and easily forgotten” and “poor Tuesday” to emit sympathy for this particularly unpopular day of the week. I also separate the week into different checkpoints, and Tuesday is the halfway point between

Monday and Wednesday (the actual middle of the week). This was the reasoning behind the last line of the stanza, “He is the halfway point to halfway.”

3. I titled this stanza “Welcoming Wednesday” because I feel like Wednesdays are one of the best days of the week. They signify being halfway done with the week. While there are both optimistic and pessimistic ways of looking at Wednesdays, I chose the former and personified this day as a helpful and comforting character. I made the tone very comforting and gentle because of this. But, because of the possible pessimistic viewpoint, I also included a line about crying about “what might be to come.” I decided to Wednesday a woman because I envision it as a tender and motherly figure.
4. Thursday was personified as a “cooler older brother” figure to Tuesday. While neither day are not particularly important, Thursdays are much more preferable to me than Tuesdays (hence the line, “Thursday has always been the favorite brother”). They are also another “halfway to halfway” day in the week. While Thursday more well-liked than his brother, I made the appreciation of it only due to the fact that it’s close to Friday. This is the reasoning behind the line, “He is loved by association.”
5. I personified Friday as another female character because it is a relieving and comforting day. I titled the stanza “Finally, Friday” because the entire day is a relief and a day to be thankful that you have reached. They are fun days because they offer salvation from the rest of the week. The rest of the week has more than likely worn you down by the time you reach Friday, evident in the lines, “as you arrive, exhausted by the other days.” By the end of the week, I am ready to get a full night’s sleep without having to wake up early to go to school the next day, so I made Friday able to “give your tired body the rest it

deserves.” On Friday, it is easy to forget that you still have responsibilities to attend to, and I always end up procrastinating and not doing anything that day. “She warns you that this cycle will begin once more” is stating the fact that the week will start again soon, so Friday is warning you to get things together before it begins. But, the relief of it being Friday prevents you from doing so, referenced as “But her comfort deafens you.” More often than not, because I am so exhausted, I take a nap on Fridays instead of doing my homework. “You close your eyes and rest” references that.