

Identity Annotations

Identity

Let them be as flowers,
always watered, fed,
guarded, admired,
but harnessed to a pot of dirt.

Potted plants are well taken care of but have no freedom to grow or move.

Symbolism: The flowers and weeds can be interpreted symbolically, representing different aspects of identity. Flowers symbolize beauty, conformity, and societal ideals, while weeds symbolize resilience, individuality, and authenticity.

I'd rather be a tall, ugly weed,
clinging on cliffs, like an eagle
wind-wavering above high,
jagged rocks.

Wants to take risks.

Repetition: The author repeats, "I'd rather" several times to create a sense of rhythm and emphasizes the author's preference.

To have broken through the
surface of stone,
to live, to feel exposed to
the madness
of the vast, eternal sky.
To be swayed by the breezes of an
ancient sea,
carrying my soul, my seed
beyond the mountains of time or
into the abyss of the bizarre.

This stanza is about freedom and being free.

Metaphor: This poem is one big metaphor that compares identity to natural elements, specifically flowers and weeds.

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The author would rather be free to choose their own journey or adventure.

I'd rather be unseen, and if then shunned by everyone, than to be a pleasant-smelling flower, growing in clusters in the fertile valley, where they're praised, handled, and plucked by greedy, human hands.

I'd rather smell of musty, green stench than of sweet, fragrant lilac. If I could stand alone, strong and free, I'd rather be a tall, ugly weed.

Irony: The poem shows irony by juxtaposing the speaker's preference of being a weed over a flower. This challenges conventional norms.

Imagery: This poem is full of vivid imagery that appeals to the senses and creates a strong visual impression. These images evoke a sense of contrast between the beauty of the flowers and the resilience of weeds.