

“Groundhog” Analysis

Notes on your papers

Delete from your writing...

- The poet uses...
- Imagery paints a picture in the reader's mind
- Alliteration calls attention to the words

Punctuation

- Quotation marks: punctuation goes inside them
 “Groundhog”, a poem by Ellen Bryant Voigt...

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~~“Groundhog”, a poem by Ellen Bryant Voigt...~~

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- Line breaks should go in the quotations—indicate with a /

“though groundhogs have no swimming hole and lunch/ is
rooted in the ground”

Similes vs Analogies

“not unlike otters which we love” = analogy

“floating on their backs like truant boys unwrapping lunch” = simile

“small feet/ like a fat man’s odd diminutive loafers” ????????

“a dark triangular face like the hog-nosed skunk” ????????

Poetic Terms for Review

- Asyndeton: this is a list without a conjunction (a = “not” as in amoral; syn = “together” as in synthesis)... asyndeton is in the poem, but it was occasionally misused in your papers
- Conceit: not every simile/ metaphor is a conceit. If you analyze conceit, you have to be specific about how it is developed, why it is fanciful or novel, and identify its significance to the poem... I’m not saying conceit is out of the question for this poem, but you have to be specific
- Volta: this an organizational technique- what comes before and after matters more than the moment itself... you need to do some analysis to argue the existence of this poetic device

Vehicle and Tenor

- If you're going to mention vehicle and tenor, you have to mention I.A. Richards—those are his terms... we're just borrowing them

Quotations need to be part of the sentences

- Lead-in with a comma
- Lead-in with a colon
- Blend it

Editing

- I noticed a sharp drop in the quality of the editing
- Voigt ≠ Voight, Vogit, Voit, Vight, Vgit
- You have to proofread & edit

Meaning of the Poem

- Your analysis needs to get at the meaning of the poem, specifically your interpretation of the meaning of the poem
- Every poetry analysis has the same prompt:

How does the speaker convey the meaning of the poem?

- Poetic devices are the most likely way.
- Chunking the poem is always a second option.