

The Human Paradox

HOWARD NEMEROV'S "THE VIEW FROM AN ATTIC WINDOW"

paradox

a statement or situation that appears contradictory yet contains a deeper truth.

1. The speaker in Nemerov's poem is exploring a number of themes that we have discussed throughout the course. One central idea is what could be described as "the human paradox." Using textual evidence, explain the paradox explored by the speaker.
2. The poem also discusses the concept of legacy—another theme we have explored this semester. Using textual evidence, explain what the poem is saying about legacy.

leg·a·cy

/ˈlegəsē/

noun

noun: **legacy**; plural noun: **legacies**

1. an amount of money or property left to someone in a will.
synonyms: bequest, inheritance, heritage, endowment, gift, patrimony, settlement, birthright; *formal* benefaction
"a legacy from a great aunt"
- a thing handed down by a predecessor.
"the legacy of centuries of neglect"
synonyms: consequence, effect, upshot, spin-off, repercussion, aftermath, by-product, result
"a legacy of the wars"



All during Sunday afternoon,
Not storming, but befittingly,
Out of a still, grey, devout sky,

The snowflakes fell, until all shapes
Went under, and thickening, drunken lines
Cobwebbed the sleep of solemn pines.