

Annotation Option 1: "The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry

Peace of Wild Things

When despair grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

-- Wendell Berry

1. Copy and paste this poem into your weekly poetry work template.
2. Read "The Peace of Wild Things" out loud to yourself.
3. As you read this poem, what are you seeing in your head? What picture is Berry painting? Add a comment on the title that describes the image being painted in your head.
4. Highlight the words and brief phrases that paint this picture in your head.
5. Berry is known for using ordinary, common language in his poetry. Still, there are some interesting words here. For your field guide entry, choose "tax" (and find out what it means in THIS context. And what does this have to do with the way we typically use the word "tax"). OR choose "day-blind stars waiting for their light". (Do a deep dive into this phrase, including "day-blind", which is a word that Berry has invented here. What do these words mean when put together? What are your associations? What image is created here?) Put your field guide in your weekly poetry work template.
6. What is Wendell Berry saying in this poem? Add a comment to the end to share your interpretation.
7. How does the image he creates here MATCH what he is saying? Add a comment to the first word of the poem with your thinking.