

The Dolphins

The poem is about a dolphin remembering its previous life in the ocean, speaks about the experience of being confined to an aquarium with others of its kind where it is expected to perform tricks in the aquatic equivalent of a circus. and where its freedom is limited. This poem is written in the dolphin's perspective to show how the dolphins feel.

This poem is written under the purpose of telling us that although dolphins are mammals, human beings dominate these dolphins, control them and restrict their freedom.

The poem opens on a disturbing

note where the dolphins narrate what their world has been reduced into. The poem largely employs the first person point of view and carries a dejected tone. Dolphins are made for swimming and an unwilling, dancing dolphin is rarely a happy one. By forcing the dolphin to perform some people-pleasing tricks, man makes it go against its nature and denies the identity it actually has, thereby reducing it to a plaything. The phrase 'it is simple' in the first line of the poem betrays a hopeless resignation of the dolphin has come to embrace.

It is important to note that even their swimming isn't a voluntary one: the dolphins' natural movements are controlled by man whether it be through the limits of the

pool or the instructions he gives through his whistle.

The first stanza makes it clear that the dolphins have no option. Though it is placed in water, it is not free for the moment it tries to escape, and death will come inevitable as it will not be able to "breathe for long." One of the distinctive features of the poem is its ambiguity. The poem throws up interesting questions precisely at points where one is most confident about its meanings. A case in point is the use of the word 'other' in the first stanza.

"The other's movement
forms my thoughts
And also mine"