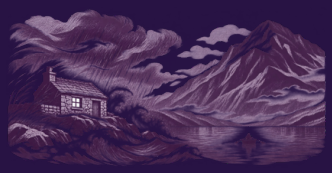
STORM ON THE ISLAND

Seamus Heaney



WHAT HAPPENS? An apparently prepared community confronts a storm it cannot fully control.

BIG IDEA **Preparation offers limited protection when an invisible force makes human confidence collapse.**

FOUR EVIDENCE FRAGMENTS · ZOOM IN, THEN EXPLAIN

“prepared”

Declarative opening

The initial confidence becomes a position the poem tests.

“tame cat”

Simile

Familiarity offers a false expectation of safety.

“savage”

Tonal reversal

One adjective turns domestic comfort into danger.

“huge nothing”

Paradox

The unseen force feels enormous despite its intangibility.

FORM

One 19-line stanza, predominantly blank verse; conversational address gives way to military imagery.

CONTEXT

Heaney’s island setting invites a literal reading of extreme weather. Political resonance is possible, but should be argued from details.

COMPARE IT WITH…

Exposure: nature as an adversary. The Prelude: confidence overturned.

VOICE, TONE & FEELINGS · FOLLOW THE SHIFTS

Opening houses

CONFIDENT

The collective speaker lists practical measures that seem to establish security.

Sea and wind

UNSETTLED

An apparently familiar environment turns threatening and attacks the home.

Last lines

FEARFUL AND QUESTIONING

The threat cannot be grasped; the ending makes fear itself part of the problem.

FULL POEM: use your anthology. Evidence fragments are prompts for close reading.

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