

TO THIS DAY

Shane Koyczan

High modality and short, sharp statements used to make sure the point of self-care is made very clear. The responder is left with no doubt that it is important.

Second person – personal pronoun “you” – direct address to the responder

Repeated use of exclamation mark to emphasize the importance of seeing the beauty in yourself

Rhyming triplet used to engage the responder and make them focus on the directions being given to help them appreciate themselves

Metaphor comparing the resilience and bouncing back from being a victim to mending a broken heart in the same you do a broken bone.

Second person narration is used to create a positive and peaceful tone at the end of this stanza by having the victim realise that the bully had the problem and was “wrong” and that the blame is not on the victim.

If you can't see anything beautiful about yourself, (a)
Get a better mirror! (b)
Look a little closer! (b)
Stare a little longer! (b)
Because there's something inside you
that made you keep trying,
Despite everyone who told you to quit.
But you built a cast around your broken heart
And signed it yourself.
You signed it,
“They were wrong”.

ACTIVITY

1. Discuss the use of techniques in the poem and how they help to explore what it is like to be a victim of bullying.
2. How does the composer create a hopeful tone in this poem about the victims of bullying?
3. Write Three TEAL paragraphs where you analyse the need for self-respect for victims of bullying (use you will write about one technique in each paragraph)