

#### 004.1

Hart Crane's poem "The Tunnel" condemns subways and cities because they avoid and choke off nature. He writes that people would rather ride a train in a dark tunnel full of smog and steam than walk home on a path where they can enjoy the little bits of nature left in their city. People never meet each other because they keep their heads down and never talk to each other. The citizens of cities are becoming more shut off to the world around them as the cities take over.

#### 004.2

In Hart Crane's poem, *The Tunnel*, he shed light on the mental and emotional suffocation of the modern city dweller. Crane's "city" is smoky, filthy, and foreboding. Even a simple description of a train brings up hellish and unpleasant imagery; "Thunder is galvothermic here below... The car Wheels off. The train rounds, bending to a scream..." Time has also been altogether forsaken; "... the muffled slaughter of a day in birth-." All of these things together emphasize the cruel confines of the city, which have displaced and destroyed the natural environment. In this way Crane makes the city the antithesis of the natural environment. The final sentence illustrates how far we have strayed from nature into stark relief; "How far away... or shall the hands be drawn away to die?"

#### 004.3

The overall theme of "The Tunnel" is that technology is the enemy. Crane asserts that technology is the "daemon" (line 100). He wants people in the city to walk, a natural mode of transportation, and accuses the technological methods of being untrustworthy and weak. He describes the train and steamboat as struggling to carry their loads (lines 92-93, 123-124). He also wants readers to avoid the noise, crowds, and buildings of the city (lines 24-26, 58). Overall, Crane is encouraging society to refute technology and embrace nature.

#### 004.4

Hart Crane's poem "The Tunnel" shows his disdain for humanity's creation and modernization of the concrete jungle. Crane implies that the modernization of humanity is detrimental to society because it makes us as humans reliant on technology rather than our own physical capability to survive. He states that "the subway yawns the quickest promise home" but that walking would be a better alternative because the subway is bad for the environment.

#### 004.5

In the poem "The Tunnel," by Hart Crane, he expresses his view of the modern city that society finds itself in. People have become disconnected from each other, an effect caused by the advancement in technology and absence of nature. Though the city population all lives within a few square miles, each individual prefers to stay in his or her own life; "each eye attending its own shoe." (Crane, line 87)

#### 004.6

In his poem, "the tunnel", author Hart Crane presents an environment that is devoid of nature by indirectly alluding to its absence. By presenting various elements of an urban environment such as "a burnt match skating in a urinal... To brush some new presentiment of pain" (60-63). Crane describes pain being present due to the absence of nature. Although not mentioned directly,

the empty feelings of the subject are directly tied to the vagueness of an urban/subway environment, implying that nature is a vital catalyst for the development of happiness.

#### 004.7

The poem relates natural processes of the environment to a mode of transportation that has a huge impact on people. Natural processes such as weather are describing the man-made environment—"thunder is galvothermic here below". The environment which the author is describing is being compared to a natural ecosystem, though this "ecosystem" is completely man-made. While it is created by people, it still retains some of the properties of the natural environment. The subway carries the people from place to place like "the River that is East". The subway is like a life source, feeding them "[spooning] out more liquid", keeping the people alive.

#### 005.1

In Hart Crane's poem "The Tunnel," the narrator disdainfully speaks about his experience on the subway. He describes the subway with morbid terms that have very negative connotations. For example, "the muffled slaughter of a day in birth" (line 108) demonstrates how industrialization hurts the environment in a subtle or "muffled" way and how people do not notice how it is detrimental. The narrator concludes his description of the subway with a reference to "Tomorrow" as a symbol for the future. He alludes that if humans continue on the path of industrialization, it will lead to the "kiss of our agony" on the environment. The irony here is that our "kiss" or what we believe to be progressive is actually destructive.

#### 005.2

In Hart Crane's "The Tunnel", he speaks about walking through a city where nature is absent. He knows all the unnatural spots, but he keeps walking in search of natural areas. However, he is not sure if there is any nature remaining. When he says "You'll find the garden in the third act dead" he is saying that in the final act of the city's growth, nature has been taken out. Before nature died in the city, people avoided the sites and experiences of a long walk home for the convenience of taking the subway, because "The subway yawns the quickest promise home."

#### 005.3

Life in the city is vastly different than that in nature. The modern city has come into existence by replacing swaths of natural land. The natural land could, and still can, provide valuable resources to its inhabitants. The city can provide other resources, such as economic growth and industry. Many of the inhabitants who are choosing which environment to live in are at loggerheads about which system is more beneficial. The poem seems to support the concept that the city exists as its own unique environment, capable of sustaining a unique batch of animals: the corporate-focused person.

#### 005.4

Crane's call-to-arms for environmental awareness is exemplified in his last paragraph. He references tugboats, oil patches, and polluted rivers: painting a picture of a plagued city. Crane then proceeds to introduce a Daemon, personifying the industrial revolution and its impact on the earth. It seems that Crane is alarmed by man's treatment of the earth, praising the working

men and the men of the earth and curing the industrial tycoons, calling them the hard of fire. Essentially, Crane finds the industrialization of America its own downfall.

005.5

Hart Crane begins the poem by explaining how we, as people, have killed nature with our concrete buildings and structures. He calls people a "hiving swarm", like locust. He says that humans find pretty stuff and make it horrible. Also, people have hung nature. He personifies nature as a person swinging, hanging, dead. The body is smoking on rails, though, despite the horribleness, we push the deadness of nature to the back of our minds. All of this just points to Crane's idea that nature is being destroyed by industrialization.