

Ode to Stone
By Amy Moscovitz

One day at Far Rockaway

is all it took.

One look at rocks in water

decided me: → big impact!

I want to be stone.

I want to be marble.

Dressed up limestone

never looked so good.

Let me be granite

and I promise

IF she has no emotion,
I'll show you how to take

a shellacking. absolute defeat, loss

Yes, I'll risk sunburn. "take a chance"
↳ hurt

Just let me be rock

wedged into the earth or sea

tidal waves crashing over me

while I remain intact ----

no split at the core,

more buffed than bruised.

Forget the pillar of salt.

I'll look back at the count of three

and you can turn me into stone.

Go on.

I'm half rock already.

Literary Device: Symbolism

1. Identify the symbols in the poem and give the symbol's meaning.

2. How do the symbols contribute to the meaning of the poem?

Stone = hardened emotions, tough

Sunburn = being hurt

(Is she taking a risk of sunburn if she is hard as rock?)

3. What words have connotation and what is the double meaning of the word? How does the author's word choice impact the poem?

shellacking - if she hardens herself, she can withstand loss

wedged - protected, unmoved

buffed - unscarred, "perfected"

5. What is the tone of the poem? Which lines best support the tone?

determined

resolute

Serious

Wants to have no feelings strong/hard like a rock

- around nature

All = types of rock

for emphasis "repetition"

safe

to + trouble

whole, not broken

polished →

trouble did not bruise her - she not "better" bitter

allusion Torah story about Lot

halfway to closing her emotions

Metaphor

"boxed in" "condemned"

To Pimp a Butterfly

Personification

The caterpillar is a prisoner to the streets that conceived it

Its only job is to eat or consume everything around it, in order to protect itself from this mad city

drugs? guns
crime gangs?
parents?

While consuming its environment the caterpillar begins to notice ways to survive

ignores, alienates

One thing it noticed is how much the world shuns him, but praises the butterfly

people who are already successful in music business

The butterfly represents the talent, the thoughtfulness, and the beauty within the caterpillar

potential!

"prisoner to the streets"

But having a harsh outlook on life, the caterpillar sees the butterfly as weak and figures

- They've had everything handed to them? They've lost sight of music, has become a business?

out a way to exploit it to his own benefits

uses them to get into music business

Already surrounded by this mad city the caterpillar goes to work on the cocoon which

institutionalizes him

conforms him (prison)

becoming successful

protects, transforms

He can no longer see past his own thoughts

He's trapped

When trapped inside these walls certain ideas start to take roots, such as going home, and bringing back new concepts to this mad city

positive earlier said ~~was~~ ~~at~~ prisoner to the streets
family people he trusts

The result? He wants out of cocoon

place he can't control

Wings begin to emerge, breaking the cycle of feeling stagnant

Doing music his way! Free

Finally free, the butterfly sheds light on situations that the caterpillar never considered, ending the eternal struggle

internal new Kendrick

old Kendrick

Although the butterfly and caterpillar are completely different, they are one and the same."

- Kendrick Lamar (2015)