
EXPERIMENTAL INDEX: SCIENCE



Courtesy of Colourbox

Introduction: the Process

When creating our experimental index, our topic of “science” seemed to be a rather broad topic to cover. It sparked conversation of what qualifies as science and what did not, and it struck us that anything and everything could be considered science. In order to make this encompassing topic more manageable, we divided science into five subtopics: humans, animals, earth, chemicals and technology, and plants, as those seem to be most integral to the poem. Although humans, animals, and plants arguably all fall under the category of biology, we decided to split them because of the poem’s heavy emphasis on the natural world. Each member of our group selected a subcategory of science, searched the poem for any mention of it, and wrote down the words he or she found. Often times, we felt incredibly redundant but believed that being inclusive of multiple perspectives were important. Although the product is one list, each subcategory was completed by a different person, so everyone’s individual creativity and vision is present within the index.

Reading Experience

Unlike “traditional” reading, we read the text word by word instead of connecting the words to form a complete thought. We scanned through the book searching for words that reminded us of our subcategory of science. It caused us to notice the author’s attitude of the poem through the structure, such as the tone of progressively layering anxiety especially when the use of commas disappeared. Also, creating the index forced our group to see the intersections between the different types of science (which we found perplexing because the lines seemed so blurred). These connections put a spotlight on the poem’s ideas of the natural and the unnatural being intertwined in a delicate balance, reminding us of the responsibility each facet of the environment has. It was also difficult to differentiate between “science” and “non-science” because it is a topic created by both the human and non-human. “alphabet” focused on nature and the danger of atomic weapons, often illustrating the utter destruction left in its wake. It created a dichotomy between the science of humans versus the science of nature, forcing us to understand the consequences of man’s impact not only on nature but on humans as well.

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Courtesy of Pinterest

