

'Two Scavengers in a Truck, Two Beautiful People in a Mercedes'

Q. Read the following poem 'Two scavengers in a truck, two beautiful people in a Mercedes', and answer the questions based on the poem.

At the stoplight waiting for the light/ nine am downtown San Francisco
bright yellow garbage truck/with two garbage men in red plastic blazers
standing on the back stoop /one on each side hanging on
and looking down into/ an elegant open Mercedes
with an elegant couple in it/The man in a hip three-piece linen suit with
shoulder-length blond hair & sunglasses/ The young blond woman so casually
coifed/ with a short skirt and coloured stockings/ on the way to his architect's
office/ And the two scavengers up since four am/ grungy from their route/on the
way home/The older of the two with grey iron hair/and hunched back/looking
down like some/gargoyle Quasimodo/And the younger of the two/also with
sunglasses & long hair/about the same age as the Mercedes driver
And both scavengers gazing down/as from a great distance/at the cool couple/as
if they were watching some odourless TV ad/in which everything is always
possible/And the very red light for an instant/holding all four close together/as if
anything at all were possible/between them/across that small gulf/in the high
seas/of this democracy

Lawrence Ferlinghetti

a. Summarise briefly the main theme of the poem in 150 words.

b. How does the writer express his idea about the inequalities in society?

Poetry Analysis

Q. Thoroughly and critically analyse ‘Two Scavengers in a Truck...’ include the analysis of linguistic devices, feelings, structure, and the interpretation of specific quotes.

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