

Yennhi Nguyen

AP Language 2A

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POD Response 6

Hunters in the Snow

The title and a quick glance at the image give the viewers the impression that the men in the bottom-left corner with their pack of dogs are coming back to their village after a hunt in the snow. Taking just a little closer look, it is noticeable that they men are not carrying anything back into the village, and therefore, their hunt was unsuccessful.

Observing the faces of the people in depth, it appears that Bruegel, the artist, did not spend his time wanting to capture the faces of the townspeople in depth. Everyone is intently focused on doing their own activities in their own separate groups. As the group of hunters return to the town, no one even notices them since they are all busy doing their own things.

The overall image appears to lack detail. There are no faces on the townspeople's faces and everything seems to be idealized to an extent. The tree's all appear to be similar and the dogs all resemble each other in the thinness of their torsos. This detail gives the viewers the impression that these dogs haven't had much to eat in a long time. The pack of dogs are mostly all black except for about three dogs that are a bright brown in contrast to the surrounding dark figures. It could be that these dogs are stronger or possibly that they are the alpha of the pack and are therefore in a brighter color to represent their status.

Bruegel utilized atmospheric perspective as the hunters in lower corner have more detail on them compared to those farther away in the distance. However, the one thing that breaks away from the lack of intense detail is the brick house on the left side of the image. There is an

immense amount of detail focused on that one area along with the spark of fire that is a definite eye-drawer. There is less detail in the distance, but the frozen pond is emphasized. Everyone is monochromatic, dark, and colorless shadows.

There appears to be a separation between the townspeople on the two different ice rinks. Those on the farther away one seem to be more carefree as they skate and play on the ice. Yet, on the other one, there is a smaller group of people who appear to be fixated on doing a project of some sort. There is also a person pulling someone on a sled in their own section at the bottom right corner of the image. Everyone appears to be separated in their own groups involved in doing their own activity, but they are all different.

Perched on the tree branches and flying in the sky are black birds that are hovering over the town from up above. It becomes questionable whether these birds are the hunters in the snow that are waiting for someone to feast on, or if these men in the corner are if not both. The townspeople do not look thin and frail as the dogs do. They do not look as if they are starving as one glance at the ice rink shows that these people are not miserable if they were to be on the brink of starvation.