

MOCO LIMPING by David Nava Monreal

My dog hobbles with a stick  
of a leg that he drags behind  
him as he moves.  
And I was a man that wanted a  
beautiful, noble animal as a pet.  
I wanted him to be strong and  
capture all the attention by  
the savage grace of his gait.  
I wanted him to be the first dog  
howling in the pack,  
the leader, the brutal hunter  
that broke through  
the woods with thunder.  
But, instead he's  
this rickety little canine  
that leaves trails in the dirt  
with his club foot.  
He's the stumbler that trips while  
chasing lethargic bees and butterflies.  
It hurts me to see him so  
abnormal, so clumsy and stupid.  
My vain heart weeps knowing he is mine.  
But then he turns my way and  
looks at me with  
eyes that cry out with life.  
He jumps at me with  
his feeble paws.  
I feel his warm fur  
and his imperfection is  
forgotten.

**T** - A being that is injured, either physically or emotionally.

**P** - My dog has a bad leg and hobbles. I wanted a strong dog, a leader, and graceful, but he is slow and clumsy. I am too proud to admit that he is mine. But when he shows me love, I forget about his imperfections, and my ego.

**C** - *Hobbles, rickety little canine, club foot, stumbler, abnormal, feeble* have connotations of something broken and useless. *Savage grace, gait, leader, brutal hunter* have connotations of strength and power. *My vain heart weeps* connotes selfishness. *Imperfection is forgotten* connotes resilience and forgiveness.

**A** - The speaker starts with a negative tone toward his dog. He then shifts into a hopeful, yet also selfish and egotistical tone. He quickly shifts again to the reality of what his dog is, and picks up his negative tone again. He ends the poem with a hopeful, positive, loving tone.

**S** - There are no shifts in speaker, but there are shifts in attitude in Line 4, starting with "And"; Line 14, starting with "But"; Line 23, starting with "But."

**T** - We now know about a pet and his owner, both the dog's physical handicap and the owner's emotional handicap.

**T** - Unconditional love means looking past deficiencies. Heroism is the ability to inspire and put the needs of a loved one over your own.