

A Narrow Fellow in the Grass by Emily Dickinson.

"A Narrow Fellow in the Grass" is believed to have been written in 1865. A year later, it was published anonymously under the title "The Snake" in a journal called the *Springfield Republican*. The natural world is portrayed vividly throughout Dickinson's work, and this poem closely examines one of nature's most infamous creatures, the snake.

The poem begins with a description of the shock of encountering a snake. Although the poem's speaker never actually uses the word "snake," the scene is familiar enough for most readers to relate to it. The snake is almost magical as it moves, ghost-like, through the tall grass. The speaker sees only flashes of the snake's scaly skin, but there is evidence of its presence as the grass separates in its wake.

The poem goes on to illustrate how snakes can be deceptive. The word "barefoot" makes the speaker seem even more vulnerable to the serpent's potential threat. Mistaking a snake for the lash of a whip on the ground, the speaker reaches down to grab it and is startled to see it slither away.

The snake, one of the most notorious creatures in the natural world, has long been a symbol of treachery. Although the poem's speaker claims to be a lover of nature, it seems that the snake, while fascinating, is impossible to love. In fact, the speaker reacts to the snake as if it were a living manifestation of the terror of the unknown, for it is both startling and chilling.

[Emily Dickinson's poems are mostly her letters to her sister-in-law and father, where she writes about things that she has come across. Looking at her collection of poems, it is clear that she is a person who is in love with nature, and is often left mesmerized by the smallest of living being or something which is as immense as a sea. In this poem analysis, I am going to look upon "A narrow fellow in the grass", where she describes her encounter with a snake in her garden.](#)

[In this quadrant, Dickinson talks about a snake that she had seen on the grass, and personifies it to a "fellow". This kind of writing could mean that she gave importance to the patriarchal society and importance of men in her writing. She describes how suddenly a snake appears to our eye-sight. The term "you" engages the reader with the poem, as it is like the poet is directly addressing the reader of the poem.](#)

[In these lines, the poet uses imagery tools to describe the movement of the snake and how it looks. The first line, "The grass divides as with a comb" shows the swift movement of the snake in the grass, which opens the blades of the grass like of a comb. The lines, "And then it closes at your feet And opens further on' describes the curiosity of Dickinson towards the snakes, and how she slowly follows it movement through the grass, she describes how the division of the blades of the grass opens further, as the snake moves further, and closes at her feet, where she is standing on the grass, a little distant from the creature.](#)

[She refers to the snake as a man, using "he" in her lines. In these lines, she describes about spotting a snake in a marshland. She says that the snake likes places that are mostly neglected and are devoid of human presence. The lines "A floor too cool for corn" are like a sarcasm, or description, about human](#)

nature, where they try to utilize every plot of land for their needs; and clearly a “boggy acre” is of their no use. In the last two lines, the poet brings a memory from her childhood, where she had once seen a snake in an early morning when she was roaming around on the ground barefoot.

These lines are a continuation of her memory of her childhood, and an encounter with a snake. She describes it as a whiplash passing on the ground. She explains its movement as “unbraiding”, which is a beautiful imagery here. It brings out an image of the swift movement of the snake; the zig-zag movement with larger curves, which looks like a braid has been set loose to open. Dickinson says that she wanted to secure the snake, or to touch it. But the snake moved faster, as its movement was more like a passing “wrinkle” and it disappeared.

In these lines, she personifies animals and trees. These lines can be easily mistaken for her friends who are admirers of nature as she is; but reading the lines twice, you would understand what exactly Dickinson meant. She says that she feels warmth in her heart for all the elements of nature, let it be an animal, the grass, or the sea. She feels a transport of friendship and between her and the

In these lines, she talks about the snake again, and again personifies by calling it “fellow”. She says that she had never seen any of the “nature’s people” who is so still as if it is not breathing at all. The term, “zero at the bone” she tries to describe how mesmerised she is with the flexible and swift movement of the snake, as if it does not have any bone in its body at all. These lines also portray the cold behaviour and wildness of the snake, which she has not witnessed in any other “nature’s people” yet