

# Detail

## Consider:

About suffering they were never wrong,  
The Old Masters: how well they understood  
Its human position; how it takes place  
While someone else is eating or opening a window or just walking dully along;

— W. H. Auden, “Musee des Beaux Arts”

## Discuss:

1. *Suffering* is a general term. What is a general term that sums up the detail in line 4?

2. Compare line 4 with the following:

*While someone else is not suffering;*

Why is Auden’s line more effective?

## Apply:

Substitute the word *laziness* for *suffering* in line one of the poem. Now rewrite line four to complete the following:

While someone else is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ or

\_\_\_\_\_.

Your new line should give details about the *opposite* condition of laziness. Use Auden’s line as a model. Share the “new” stanzas with a partner.