

Imagery

Consider:

As for the grass, it grew as scant as hair
In leprosy; thin dry blades pricked the mud
Which underneath looked kneaded up with blood.
One stiff blind horse, his every bone a-stare,
Stood stupefied, however he came there:
Thrust out past service from the devil's stud!

— Robert Browning, “Child Roland to the Dark Tower Came”

Discuss:

1. What feelings are produced by the image of the grass in lines 1-3?
2. Does the imagery of the horse (lines 4-6) inspire sympathy? Explain your answer with direct references to specific images.

Apply:

Write a description of an old, sick person. Convey an attitude of horror through the imagery of your description. Do not explain the sense of horror; do not use figurative language. Instead, use specific imagery to convey the meaning of your description. Share your description with the class.