

"A TWISTED LOVE" POEM

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By Judy Terando

He didn't like the way I walked.
He didn't like the way I talked.

He said I was dumb and embarrassed him.
Who am I? Why am I grim?

No more friends. No calls from them.
Who am I? Why am I grim?

I didn't flirt with that dude.
Am I vulgar and crude?

What's wrong with the way I dress?
My hair, make-up? Do I really look like a
mess?

If I need to change all that wrong with me,
Who am I? What will I be?

The silent treatment -- he's in control.
I'm so sad. Why don't I feel whole?

I must've done something wrong to him.
Who am I? Why so grim?

I can't remember happy days...
Only his possessive, jealous ways.

(continue)

Guided Annotations & Questions

1. Highlight words that symbolize positive actions in a relationship with a pink or orange highlighter. Use a blue or green highlighter to symbolize negative actions in a relationship.

- What can be made of the fact that there are more examples of negative actions than positive actions?

2. With a colored pencil, circle words that show how the victim feels in this relationship.

- Based on the words you circled, summarize how you think the victim feels.

First a push, a little shove...
Is this it? Is this love?

I thought it was true...
People who love you don't hit you.

Love shouldn't mean I need to be hit.
Not once or twice, not one little bit.

If I should change all that is wrong, you
see,
There'd be nothing left of me.

I'm better now. I dumped the jerk.
And starting to regain some of my former
perk.

I can laugh again and enjoy my life.
It's much easier without all that strife.

If he doesn't make you feel good about
who you are.
Run. Run. Run so very far.

3. Draw an arrow to the point in the poem where the mood of the relationship shifts.

- What is the resolution of the victim and this relationship?

4. Explain what the title of this poem means to you in your own words. Do you think it's positive or negative? Why?

5. What type of obstacles do people face that experience this type of relationship?

6. Who or what can affect the outcome of this type of relationship?