**The Judgment of Paris**

**Metaphor**:

**VIC**:

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|     | Long afterwardsthe intelligent could deduce what had been offeredand not recognizedand they suggest that bitterness should be confinedto the fact that the gods chose for their arbitera mind and character so ordinary albeit a prince**Tone and Characterization**: What is the author’s attitude toward Paris here?**VIC**: **VIC**: and brought up as a shepherd a calling he must have liked for he had returned to itwhen they stood before him the threenaked feminine deathlessand he realized that he was clothed in nothing but mortalitythe strap of his quiver of arrows crossing between his nipplesmaking it seem stranger**Irony/Contrast and Imagery**: How does the author establish a startling contradiction in this stanza?and he knew he must chooseand on that daythe one with the gray eyes spoke first and whatever she said he keptthinking he rememberedbut remembered it woven with confusion and fear the two faces that he called fatherthe first sight of the palacewhere the brothers were strangersand the dogs watched him and refused to know him she made everything clear she was dazzling sheoffered it to himto have for his own but what he sawwas the scorn above her eyesand her words of which he understood few all said to him  *Take wisdomtake power you will forget anyway*Why are these words italicized? What can you infer from them?**Inference**: What does Paris see in this goddess? What might this suggest about what he sees in himself?**Characterization**: Which goddess is described in this stanza? How is she characterized?**Inference**: What does the author imply about Paris’ relationship with his family?the one with the dark eyes spoke and everything she said he imagined he had once wished for but in confusion and cowardice the crownof his father the crowns the crowns bowing to him his name everywhere like grassonly he and the sea triumphantshe made everything sound possible she wasdazzling she offered it to himto hold high but what he saw was the cruelty around her mouthand her words of which he understood more all said to him  *Take pridetake glory you will suffer anyway***Contrast/Irony**: How does the goddess’ offer conflict with what he sees in her face?**Characterization**: Paris: How do Paris’ desires conflict with his basic nature?**Characterization**: Which goddess is described in this stanza? How is she characterized?the third one the color of whose eyes later he could not remember spoke last and slowly andof desire and it was his though up until then he had been happy with his river nymph here was his mind filled utterly with one girl gathering yellow flowersand no one like her the words made everything seem present almost present presentthey said to him  *Take heryou will lose her anyway***Characterization**: Which goddess is described in this stanza? How is she characterized?**Diction/Repetition**: What is the effect of repetition here?**Themes/Inference**: What does the change in him suggest about the influence of the gods on mortal lives?**Themes/Inference**: What does this mean? Why might he be unable to recall her specific eye color?Why are these words italicized? What can you infer from them?Why are these words italicized? What can you infer from them?it was only when he reached out to the voice as though he could take the speaker herselfthat his hand filled with something to give but to give to only one of the three an apple as it is told discord itself in a single fruit its skin already carved*To the fairest***Themes/Inference**: What is happening simultaneously in these stanzas?What does this suggest about the impact of an individual’s decisions?then a mason working above the gates of Troy in the sunlight thought he felt the stone shiver**Foreshadowing**:in the quiver on Paris’s back the head of the arrow for Achilles’ heel smiled in its sleep**Foreshadowing**:and Helen stepped from the palace to gather as she would do every day in that season from the grove the yellow ray flowers tall as herself**Characterization/Irony**: Helenwhose roots are said to dispel pain**Irony**: —*W. S. Merwin* |
|   | Source:Merwin, W. S.  “The Judgment of Paris.”  *The Second Four Books of Poems*.  Port Townsend, WA: Copper Canyon P, 1993 (1970).  146-8. |

**Structure**: Note the use of punctuation in the poem. What is the effect of the author’s choices in punctuation?

**Structure**: Note the separations between stanzas in this poem. What is the effect of the author’s choice to lay his poem out in this way?

VIC: