

Don't Drink the Water (1998)

Dave Matthews

Assignment:

1. Highlight and identify the speaker of each line or set of lines and WHY you think the speaker is either
 - a. a European speaker or
 - b. a Native American speaker
 - c. Could be either a European or Native American speaker
1. Identify examples of
 - a Eurocentric attitude
 - The Exotic Other
 - The Noble Savage
3. Identify
 - Rhetorical questions (often loaded with “tone”)
 - Parallelism or parallel structure (repetition of words or phrases)
 - Changes of tone in the speaker’s attitude

Examples of Tone Words:

Accusatory
Contemptuous
Condescending
Compassionate
Mocking
Empathetic
Detached
Serious
Solemn
Lighthearted

Come out, come out
No use in hiding
Come now, come now
Can you not see?
There's no place here
What were you expecting?
Not room for both
Just room for me
So you will lay your arms down
Yes I will call this home

Away, away
You have been banished
Your land is gone
And given me
And here I will spread my wings
Yes I will call this home
What's this you say
You feel a right to remain?
Then stay and I will bury you
What's that you say
Your father's spirit still lives in this place?
I will silence you

Here's the hitch
Your horse is leaving
Don't miss your boat
It's leaving now

And as you go I will spread my wings
Yes I will call this home
I have no time to justify to you
Fool you're blind, move aside for me
All I can say to you my new neighbor
Is you must move on or I will bury you

Now as I rest my feet by this fire
Those hands once warmed here
I have retired them
I can breathe my own air
I can sleep more soundly
Upon these poor souls
I'll build heaven and call it home

'Cause you're all dead now
I live with my justice
I live with my greedy need
I live with no mercy
I live with my frenzied feeding
I live with my hatred
I live with my jealousy
I live with the notion
That I don't need anyone but me

Don't drink the water
There's blood in the water

Answer the following questions:

1. What does the phrase “Don't drink the Kool-Aid” suggest? Do you know the origin of this phrase?
2. How might the final two lines (Don't drink the water/There's blood in the water) serve as a metaphor for early American History; in other words, if “the water” is a European view of the early history of the Americas, what might the warning to not “drink the water” imply? What then does the “blood” represent?