

Identify and explain what you believe is a main idea of the poem.

People like

The main idea of the poem is that flowers are pretty and loved, but a weed is ugly and ignored which would be a better way to live. A flower is always attended to and given attention, but is harmed by everyone around them. A weed may not be loaded with attention, but it can do whatever it wants without judgements. In the first stanza, the author says, "Let them be as flowers, always watered, fed, guarded, admired, but harnessed to a pot of dirt." What they mean when saying this is that there are many perks to being like a flower, but being what everyone wants you to be takes away your chances of having freedom. In the final stanza, Polanco stated, "I'd rather smell of musty, green stench than of sweet fragrant lilac." The way I understood this was that they would rather not suit the social norms and stand out, than be like everyone else. It is important to understand this concept because you may enjoy life more if you live it the way you want to, not the way everyone else wants you to.