

Close Reading of the First Paragraph ~ After Twenty Years by O. Henry

The policeman on the beat moved up the avenue impressively. The impressiveness was habitual and not for show, for spectators were few. The time was barely ten o'clock at night, but chilly gusts of wind with a taste of rain in them had well nigh depeopled the streets.

In police terminology, a **beat** is the territory and time that a police officer patrols. Beat policing is based on traditional policing (late 19th century) and utilizes the close relationship with the community members within the assigned beat(area) to strengthen police effectiveness and encourage cooperative efforts to make a safer community.

What does *moved up the avenue **impressively*** mean? To answer this, think of times when you have heard someone say, "That's impressive!"

If the impressiveness was habitual, this means

The way the policeman moved was not for show because _____.

...depeopled the streets means _____ (Think of what the prefix *-de* means to help you.)

The reason the streets were depeopled was because _____

Paraphrase the first paragraph in the box below. Remember, paraphrase means to put something in your own words.

Download our [complete “After Twenty Years” teaching unit](#) now from our TpT store! You will have a fun prereading activity, a vocabulary activity, readers’ theater activity, and two performance task activities – one a fun group activity and the other an essay. Answer keys and sample essay are provided! Plus, as a bonus, this packet will also contain lesson plans, handouts, activities, and a test for O. Henry’s story Hearts and Hands! Download now and use for years to come!