

## Poetry Analysis 2

7/8 Excell

an Cardinal Wolsey's speech from Henry VIII, by Shakespeare, the former advisor laments about his downfall from his lofty position.

*not needed*  
~~The speech uses several literary devices to express Wolsey's own~~  
grief as well as a higher meaning. The poem uses a lot of Biblical allusions, expressive tone, and heavy symbolism in order to express that man has been destined for downfall since its beginning. God! Cardinal Wolsey's tone throughout his speech is one of grief and anger. He, at one point, yells out "oh hate ye!" towards the "vain pomp and glory of the world." This was done to show that, while man has built great things, it is all for nothing. ~~For~~ On the surface, Wolsey grieves for his last position. Going deeper, he grieves for the fact that man has continually built itself up for it to be taken away eventually. He recognizes through his anger, and by calling everything man has done in vain, that everything must come to an end at some point. That when humanity is at its height, God will come to take it away.

This allusion to God and the Bible is one that is heavily present ~~throughout~~ throughout the whole speech. The comparison of man's achievements on ripening blossoms upon them is directly an allusion to the Garden of Eden. The fact that man's destruction ~~of~~ takes place in 3 days within the poem alludes to the story of God creating Earth. ~~At~~ In the last lines, the speaker directly addresses that man's downfall is exactly like that of Lucifer. What ~~the~~ this does for the poem is express the weight at which man will fall, and also connects various instances of people being cast away; Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden and Lucifer out of Heaven. By alluding to this, ~~the~~ Shakespeare makes it evident that man's downfall will be a great event that will change the world forever. Not only this, ~~but~~ it will be caused by the will of God. Adam and Eve, as well as Lucifer, all

met their collapse directly by the will and hand of God. When the time comes, the comparison supports that man will eventually meet the same fate.

Within the Biblical allusions throughout the poem is symbolism of man himself. In the speech, man's achievements ~~are~~ and hopes are blossoms thick upon him. This symbolism gives the sense that everything humanity has accomplished is as fragile as a flower; it will die of frost from God soon enough. The most important symbol in the poem is within the last two lines, when man's downfall is compared to Lucifer's. This directly symbolizes that man is Lucifer himself. That he experienced his downfall and once we do, we can never hope to recover. This explains God's reasons for sending a frost and <sup>symbolic of God's will</sup> casting us down; humanity is so like the Devil that we have angered God Himself. Because of this, we are destined to face His wrath.

While the poem's surface is about grief over losing a job, the meaning goes way deeper. The poem employs Biblical allusion, heavy symbolism, and despairing tone to express the downfall of humanity juxtaposed with the downfall of an individual. It explains that man will one day fall like Lucifer because we are so much like him. When this day comes, we will feel the wrath of God disguised as a frost of winter designed to crush us and prevent all hope from rising again.