

*Literary Interpretation*

I walk into (name of teacher)'s fourth grade classroom with the bathroom pass loosely gripped in my palm. I reach a damp, freshly washed hand towards the doorknob casually, not at all expecting what is about to happen. The teacher is sitting in her chair lecturing about the angles of triangles as I pick up the gnarled pencil to sign in my name. The pencil slips out of my clammy grip and I bend down to pick it up. RIIPP!! Giggles erupt from the class as my pink, butterfly undies put on a private show. A mean kid with freckles named (name of student) is on the floor by now, pointing at me and egging on the class. My face turns cherry red as the teacher shushes the class. She starts talking, gesturing to me, "Excuse me, that is not funny! (Name of student) please get a pair of pants from lost and found that will fit her and (name of student) , can you please tell me why you think that that small tear in her pants is funny?" (Name of student) is totally caught off guard and shrugs, a little flushed himself. He immediately stops his guffaws and returns to this seat silently. I guess that wasn't so funny after all. Jim Hall's poem titled "Maybe Dats Youwr Pwoblem Too" shows that just because the poem seems humorous as you

read it, it had a more serious message, a little like ripping your pants. I think the message in Jim Hall's poem is that you can't change who you are and he uses the humor of Spiderman to express that.

The narrator of this poem truly believes that he is Spiderman. He says, "due to da fact, due to da awful twuth dat I am Spiderman..." As Spiderman his job is to take calls from the Governor to complete small tasks like an average police officer would do. He would have to take a lot of calls that start to get boring and he wants to stop being Spiderman. He wants to try something new and exciting like what he thought Spiderman's job would be so he tries to burn his Spiderman suit so he could stop being Spiderman. When he tries to "buin de suit..." he finds out that it is flame resistant. When he can't burn his suit he realized that you can't just stop being Spiderman! You're Spiderman for life and I think that Jim Hall used the connection between having a flame resistant suit to not being able to change who you are as a serious metaphor.

In the poem the narrator says. "You tink when you Spiderman der's sometin big going to happen to you. Well, I tell you what. It don't happen dat way." The narrator thought that being Spiderman was going to be really

fun and exciting but when he realizes that the Governor calls for small, boring things the ‘charm wears off’. I know that I’d want to be Spiderman so I could trap sand monsters and slay ninjas but if I only had to catch pathetic thugs it wouldn’t be that fun. The narrator begins to realize that being Spiderman isn’t what he thought it was going to be. He wants to “twy sometin different...” but the suit won’t burn. You can’t stop being who you are so you have to continue with yourself how you are. The author used the symbol of his suit to show that you have to keep your ‘suit’.

The flame resistant suit in the poem symbolizes that you can’t change who you are. The narrator was Spiderman and relates his “flame wesistant suit...” to everyone in the world’s personalities. Your personalities and characteristics make up who you are and that is your ‘suit’. The author made the serious connection between the suit and people in his poem. So having a flame resistant suit means that you are who you are! When he says, “Maybe dat’s da whole pwoblem wif evwytin. Nobody can buin der suits...” I think he believes that all people have every problem they have because they can’t change who they are. The author wonders if you being who you are can be hard sometimes.

So when you walk into class, drop your pencil, and rip your pants, remember that just because it seems funny it really is serious to you. Ripping your pants is different than Jim Hall's "Maybe Dats Youwr Pwoblem Too," but both show that just because something seems funny at the time, it can be serious and have a true message. Personally, the message I got from ripping my pants was to never trust jean seams but yours could be different, like it could be different in Hall's poem. That is why I think that even though the poem seemed humorous it had serious and meaningful message that shows how you can't change who you are.