

**The Hound
By Robert Francis**

The meaning of the words:

Hound: dog.

Equivocal: difficult to understand or to explain.

Bound: jump.

Befriend: friend.

To rend: to turn.

Bare: naked.

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Paraphrasing:

Life the hound

Equivocal

The poet says that life is a dog. He uses a metaphor when he says that life is a dog and the similarity between them they can not be understood.

Comes at a bound

Either to rend me

Or to befriend me.

I cannot tell

The hound's intent

Till he has sprung

At my bare hand

With teeth or tongue.

Meanwhile I stand

And wait the event.

The poet says that life or dog comes at a jump either to destroy me or to be friend with me. He can not tell the life's aim till the life or the dog jumps at my naked hands and I have to give my hands to the dog or life. I have to stay and wait the events.

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Purpose:

The poet wants to express his mixed feelings about life.

One optimism when he feels life will nice and friend to him.

The other is pessimism when he thinks life will destroy and turn him.

Theme:

Life is uncertain. One can not tell his destiny in life. Life either gives to human being or to destroy the person. No one can expect what will happen to him till he is going throw this life. While he is living he will be apprehensive. How the poets express this theme?

The poet expresses this theme through one main figure of speech metaphor. This metaphor controls the whole poem. The first line has two words that one element of the metaphor A is B. the second line has one word that is the similarity A and B unlike. The rest of the poem explains that similarity where life compared to dog.