Russel’s Analysis of Mending Wall

<https://youtu.be/YI-e4EaYW2I>

Class Notes:

Explain why Russell Jaffe’s analysis flawed.

What does Jaffe assume to be true about the neighbors?

Carefully listen for Jaffe’s use of categories. Are these arbitrary?

Notice how his voice tone, his words, & the images reinforce his ideas.

He assumes neighbors are in conflict, places characters in categories. The categories are the narrator is modern, thinking outside the box, walls are the past, separate people, we need to merge people together. Tradition is back.

First sentence should be: “Russell Jaffe’s analysis of “Mending Wall” is flawed.”

How is it flawed? DO NOT REPEAT THE VIDEO OR POEM!

Second sentence should be: “Jaffe assumes these neighbors are at war with one another, yet there is no evidence in the poem that they are in conflict. Instead the narrators questions about the need for the wall, & what causes gaps affirm the truth of the neighbors axiom that fences & walls improve & strengthen human relationships.”

Third sentence should be: “However, a careful reading of the poem reveals that the two neighbors coexist in a peacefully & do ritual work yearly in a playful environment.”

The tone flows together, the men are outdoors having fun.

He understands that good fences & walls make good friends. The wall works on them, it brings them together out of isolation into community. It’s about a wall bringing two neighbors back together.