

Interpretive Essay

REVISING AND EDITING 1

The following model is an excerpt from a draft that one student wrote analyzing Richard Wilbur's poem "A Fire-Truck."

Directions: Use the following suggestions to revise and edit the excerpt. Mark your changes on this page. Then copy your corrected draft on a separate sheet of paper.

- Identify the poem's author and title.
- Use transitional words and phrases.
- Use correct spelling.

The Two Dramas in Richard Wilbur's "A Fire-Truck"

by Shari Dann

The poem seems at first to be about seeing a firetruck rush out of a fire station, screech around the corner, and zoom off to a fire in a blur of speed with a clanging bell and wiling siren. After several additional readings however it becomes clear that the poem tells more about the speaker than about the truck.

I first realized that the poem was more than a description of a fire engine when I looked closely at the short lines that end each stanza. They emphasize that these are important lines. The line ending the second stanza is even printed in italics for greater emphasis. The third stanza of the poem seems hardly to be about the fire truck at all, yet it ends with the speaker saying to the firetruck, "I have you to thank." What does he thank the truck for?