

Casey *at the* Bat

ERNEST LAWRENCE THAYER

It looked extremely rocky for the Mudville nine that day;
The score stood two to four, with but an inning left to play.
So, when Cooney died at second, and Burrows did the same,
A pallor wreathed the features of the patrons of the game. **A**

5 A straggling few got up to go, leaving there the rest,
With that hope which springs eternal within the human breast.
For they thought: “If only Casey could get a whack at that,”
They’d put even money now, with Casey at the bat.

But Flynn preceded Casey, and likewise so did Blake,
10 And the former was a pudd’n, and the latter was a fake.
So on that stricken multitude¹ a deathlike silence sat;
For there seemed but little chance of Casey’s getting to the bat.

But Flynn let drive a “single,” to the wonderment of all.
And the much-despised Blakey “tore the cover off the ball.”
15 And when the dust had lifted, and they saw what had occurred,
There was Blakey safe at second, and Flynn a-huggin’ third.

Then from the gladdened multitude went up a joyous yell—
It rumbled in the mountaintops, it rattled in the dell;²
It struck upon the hillside and rebounded on the flat;
20 For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat. **B**

A NARRATIVE POETRY

What is the **setting** of this poem? How do you know?

ANALYZE VISUALS

Look at the picture. What can you **infer** about the baseball player’s attitude?

B READING POETRY

Reread line 20. Why do you think Casey’s name is repeated?

1. **stricken multitude**: a crowd of people affected by great trouble.

2. **dell**: valley.