

## Two Trees

One morning, Don Miguel got out of bed  
with one idea rooted in his head:  
to graft his orange to his lemon tree.  
It took him the whole day to work them free,  
5 lay open their sides, and lash them tight.  
For twelve months, from the shame or from the fright  
they put forth nothing; but one day there appeared  
two lights in the dark leaves. Over the years  
the limbs would get themselves so tangled up  
10 each bough looked like it gave a double crop,  
and not one kid in the village didn't know  
the magic tree in Miguel's patio.

The man who bought the house had had no dream  
so who can say what dark malicious whim  
15 led him to take his axe and split the bole\*  
along its fused seam, then dig two holes.  
And no, they did not die from solitude;  
nor did their branches bear a sterile fruit;  
nor did their unhealed flanks weep every spring  
20 for those four yards that lost them everything,  
as each strained on its shackled root to face  
the other's empty, intricate embrace.  
They were trees, and trees don't weep or ache or shout.  
And trees are all this poem is about.

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\*bole: the trunk of a tree

How do elements such as structure and rhyme contribute to the changing moods of this poem?

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