The Bridge Builder
By Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man, going a lone highway, 
Came, at the evening, cold and gray, 
to a chasm, vast and deep, and wide side, 
through which was flowing a sullen tide. 
The old man crossed in the twilight dim; 
The sullen stream had no fears for him; 
But he turned when safe on the other side, 
And built a bridge to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim, near, 
“You are wasting strength with building here; 
*Your* journey will end with the ending day; 
You never again must pass this way; 
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide- 
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head: 
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said, 
“there followeth after me today 
A youth, whose feet must pass this way. 
This chasm, that has been naught to me, 
To that fair headed youth may pitfall be. 
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim; 
Good friend, I am building the bridge for *him.*”

**Words to know:**
Chasm- deep opening or crack in the earth
Sullen- gloomy, dismal, sad, dreary
Pilgrim- a traveler
Eventide- time of day between late afternoon and nightfall
Naught- nothing
Pitfall- an unexpected source of trouble or danger
What is the poem mostly about?

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What are poet’s opinions about this topic? How do you know? 
(Cite a specific line or lines from the poem.)

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What is the theme of the poem? (Prove it with quotes from the poem.)

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What is the author’s purpose for writing this poem?
   a. describe a scene or place
   b. tell a story
   c. express feelings or mood about a specific subject
   d. reveal a character
   e. focus on a specific theme (ex. Loneliness, love, fear)

Can any of the following poetic devices be found in the poem? If yes, cite specific phrases and line numbers.

Alliteration/Assonance                  Onomatopoeia

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Personification                           Rhyme Scheme (what is the pattern?)

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________________________________________________________________________

Simile                                  Metaphor

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How many stanzas are in this poem? ________________