

'Rustic Joys' Analysis

Both Virgil and Horace speak incredibly highly of the countryside. I believe it is safe to say that they prefer the countryside to the city. However, I would argue that Horace favours the present more than the past. In Horace's poem Rustic Joys, the poet paints an idealistic picture of country living. In his opinion, a man who leads a country life is "as blessed as the immortal gods" because he can live a simple life full of pleasure while escaping the worries created by death and war.

Another example of bias in this poem towards the countryside is the delightful images he creates when he speaks of the jobs one must carry out. He gives descriptions of the autumn and claims this is the time to harvest the crops "when his golden apples crowned the autumn o'erlooks the smiling ground." Horace portrays the task one must carry out on their land as positive and being pleasurable. He paints them in a positive light. Horace describes the country as rewarding because once the tasks are done he can rest beneath the shade of a tree. This lovely and tranquil image highlights Horace's preference towards the countryside and living a simpler life far away from the city.