





## ***Shane Koyczan***

Shane Koyczan, Canadian poet and spoken-word artist, was born in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, to a French mother and a father of First Nations heritage. He grew up in Penticton, British Columbia. Koyczan has been winner of both the individual champion title at the National Poetry Slam and the Canadian Spoken Word Olympics. He performed his poem "We Are More" at the opening ceremonies for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Millions of people have viewed the youtube video of his anti-bullying poem, "To This Day,"; Koyczan has even given a TED Talk on bullying and created a free anti-bullying smartphone application as part of his "To This Day" Project.

His poem, "Walking Through Words", is a powerful poem about the wild within British Columbia, Canada. The poem was turned into a video by Destination BC (a company that promotes tourism). Follow Koyczan as he travels through the lush rainforest of Meares Island and explores the beach of Vargas Island, all in BC.



Complete **Before You View**.

# Before You View

3. Vocabulary: Write down the meaning of the following words. Point form / incomplete sentences are acceptable here:

a) vast:

b) untameable:

4. With your home facilitator (if possible) or on your own, think and come up with as a few ideas as to what may be described in the following stanza. List your top two ideas AFTER the verse of the poem:

**It's just the \_\_\_\_\_**

**Until you are pulling your dinner out of it.  
Until you see first-hand everything that lives in it.  
Until you feel the push and pull of a thing so vast...  
It is untameable.**

5. Vocabulary: Write down the meaning of the following word. Point form / incomplete sentences are acceptable here:

a) reprieve

6. With your home facilitator (if possible) or on your own, think and come up with as a few ideas as to what may be described in the following stanza. List your top two ideas below:

**It's just a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Until you see someone release the art trapped inside it.  
Until you need shade from the sun or reprieve from the rain.  
Until the night steals the warmth in your blood and a cedar  
sacrifices its own flesh to give you fire.**

***Review the steps for first and second viewings:***

- **First viewing - sit back, watch, listen, and enjoy.:**
  - Try to get the "gist" of the text - a sense of what it is about and a sense of how it may be read.
  - Try to make a picture in your mind of what is happening.
  - Ask yourself questions.
  - Look for big ideas!
- **Second viewing:** Try to understand the video better. Take notes, write down questions, notice imagery and literary devices, and make connections. You may stop and start the video as you listen and watch.



Complete the **First, Second, and Third Viewing** activities as you enjoy the video here:

<https://youtu.be/3-5-1q8EPjo>

# First Viewing

1. Read through the text once from beginning to end. After this first read, complete two of the following:

- Tell the "gist" of the text - a sense of what it is about.
- Sketch a picture of what is happening. This can be a pencil sketch and does not need to be a work of art.
- Ask three questions about the text.
- Look for big ideas! Tell two big ideas you remember from your first reading.

Circle one: gist, sketch, questions, big ideas.

Circle one: gist, sketch, questions, big ideas.

# Second Viewing

Remember, in descriptive text, details describe something important about the topic using sensory and figurative language.

On your second read, you will stop and find things. Complete following AS you complete your second read:

- Imagery – Vivid descriptions using one or more of the five senses. (Sights, sounds, tastes, touch, smell)

Imagery (Give your favourite two examples. Point form is fine – copy just the “imagery” part of the sentence.)

1. \*\*\*\*

2. \*\*\*\*

3. Do the images enhance Koyczan’s poem or would you prefer to listen to the poem without the images? Explain.

4. Think of objects or places around you and what they mean for you. Choose something to create a stanza in the style of the video.

It's just a \_\_\_\_\_

Until \_\_\_\_\_

Until \_\_\_\_\_

Until \_\_\_\_\_