

# Poem Analyzer: Graven's, 'The Drawing Board'

[ Poem Analyzer Analysis Performed in Jan. 2026 ]

<-Begin Poem->

## **The Drawing Board** by G.E. Graven

... Over and again,  
how I despise the sprawled sheet  
upon which I so wisely wondered last.  
Nauseating, as it lay barren, I nurse it again  
as prescribed by many abortions passed ~ a requisite  
to bare witness if the quill will give birth to flesh and bone,  
or instead, vomit forth another abandoned crumpled paper companion  
nigh six legs of persistence ~ two pacing, anxiously awaiting delivery,  
and the drawing board's remaining four,  
exclaiming for: "Over and again" ...

>-End Poem-<

<-Begin Analysis->

### ### Theme:

\*\*Central Idea:\*\* The poem explores the struggle of a writer confronting the frustration of creative block and the iterative process of writing. It delves into feelings of despair and the cyclical nature of inspiration and rejection, symbolizing both the birth and death of ideas.

\*\*Subject Matter:\*\* The subject matter centers around the act of writing, the emotional turmoil that accompanies it, and the symbolic representation of the blank page as both a canvas for creativity and a source of anxiety. The poem uses imagery related to childbirth and abortion to convey the intensity of this creative struggle.

### ### Language:

\*\*Word Choice:\*\* The language is evocative and laden with emotional weight. Words like "despise," "nauseating," and "barren" convey strong feelings of frustration and disappointment. The use of medical imagery, such as "abortions" and "birth," adds a layer of complexity, suggesting that the creative process can be both nurturing and painful.

## \*\*Literary Devices:\*\*

- **Imagery:** Vivid imagery is used to paint a picture of the writer's turmoil, particularly with the description of the “sprawled sheet” and the “abandoned crumpled paper companion.”
- **Metaphor:** The quill symbolizes the writer's voice and potential, while the “drawing board” represents both planning and the anxiety of creation.
- **Personification:** The “four” legs of the drawing board are described as “exclaiming,” giving life to inanimate objects and highlighting the urgency of the writer's need to produce.
- **Repetition:** The phrase “Over and again” is a refrain that emphasizes the cyclical nature of writing and the persistence required despite challenges.

## ### Sound and Rhythm:

**Syllabic Patterns and Stresses:** The poem does not adhere to a strict metrical pattern, which reflects the chaotic nature of the writer's thoughts. The line lengths vary, contributing to a sense of erratic pacing. The use of enjambment (where sentences or clauses run over from one line to the next without a pause) creates a flowing rhythm that mirrors the continuous struggle of writing.

## ### Structure:

**Framework:** The poem appears to be written in free verse, lacking a consistent rhyme scheme or regular stanza lengths. This choice reinforces the theme of creative chaos. The line breaks are strategically placed to emphasize pivotal moments in the narrative, such as the shift from frustration to contemplation. Punctuation is used sparingly, allowing for natural pauses that enhance the reading experience and convey the speaker's emotional state.

## ### Context:

**Who:** The speaker of the poem is a writer, possibly reflecting the author's own experiences with writing and creativity.

**What:** The poem examines the challenges of writing, including self-doubt and the fear of failure in the creative process.

**\*\*Where:\*\*** While the poem is not explicitly grounded in a specific location, the imagery of a writing desk or drawing board suggests a private, introspective space where creativity unfolds.

**\*\*When:\*\*** The poem appears to be set in the present moment, capturing the immediacy of the writer's struggle.

**\*\*Why:\*\*** The poem serves to articulate the often-unspoken challenges that writers face, offering a cathartic exploration of the creative process and the emotional highs and lows associated with it. It aims to resonate with anyone who has grappled with their own artistic endeavors.

>-End Analysis-<