

“Elephant in the Room”

author unknown

There's an elephant in the room.

It is large and squatting, so it is hard to get around it.

Yet we squeeze by with, "How are you?" and "I'm fine," and a thousand other forms of trivial chatter. We talk about the weather. We talk about work.

We talk about everything else, except the elephant in the room.

There's an elephant in the room.

We all know it's there. We are thinking about the elephant as we talk together.

It is constantly on our minds. For, you see, it is a very large elephant.

It has hurt us all.

But we don't talk about the elephant.

Oh, please, let's talk about the elephant in the room.

For if I cannot, then you are leaving me....

alone....

in a room....

with an elephant.

Answer the following in at least two complete sentences each.

- Who is the speaker in this poem?
- What is the “elephant”? What does the elephant represent?
- What will be accomplished if they talk about the elephant?
- What are your thoughts about the mood of the poem?
- What elements of dialogue are used in the poem? Why are they effective?
- How does this poem relate to *Speak*? Have you ever had an elephant in the room?