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AP Literature and Composition

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Characters of the Road

1.

Whether they are just beginning or on their way out,
Whenever driving behind them you want to take a different route.
My horn screams as I am passing by,
Sometimes so livid, wishing they would die.
They travel at their own pace--not in a rush--
Especially in the winter while driving on the slush.

2.

Then there are those who drive with a completely different mindset,
Bullies of the road, with cars asking "*Are we there yet?*"
As your mirror grabs your attention to show you the car flying from behind,
This Ricky Bobby wannabe thinks he is faster than all of mankind.
Even if you are doing the speed limit, maybe a little above,
They will get as close as possible, almost close enough to give a slight shove.

3.

While traveling down the open road,
you try to set your speed at that perfect mode.
I come across another car, the cruise control gives me a wink;
For the next fifty miles, our cars are perfectly in sync.
With neither car speeding up or slowing down,
Eventually parting ways, we both show a frown.

4.

These drivers go traveling from state to state;
And they can almost always be found carrying a large amount of weight.
When driving near one of these rigs, the truck shows its true power;
But as it goes to make a pass, it usually takes an hour.

As the weather starts to change adding a few raindrops,
The wheels attack the road, praying that the truck stops.

5.

These riders prefer to travel in packs;
Always making sure they have each others backs.
To most drivers they can go unseen;
Some of the riders wear a lot of jean.
The loud voice of the engine can often annoy,
Only coming out on special occasions as if it were a toy.

Reflection

My poem explains and describes some of the different types of drivers and vehicles on the road that I have come across as a new driver. It is written in both first and second person. The main literary device that was used throughout the poem was personification. The poem expresses both my experiences and gives my advice to the reader about things that the reader may be able to relate to.

1. My first stanza is describing the people who drive excessively slow. The first line explains that both brand new drivers and senior citizens tend to drive slow. This shows that age doesn't quite matter because there's an abundant amount of people who drive under the limit and you are sure to come across one eventually. They take extreme precautions when traveling anywhere. It talks about how these people influence other drivers to get road rage and furiously pass by, which helps segway into the next stanza by giving the polar opposite.

2. The second stanza could almost be seen as coming from the person from the first stanzas perspective. When you are doing the speed limit and others believe that the speed limit is five over everyone who passes me seems like a maniac. I used both personification and dialogue to give the car a personality and relationship with its driver. I also added humor by referencing the comedy movie *Talladega Nights*.

3. The third stanza explains the connection that you get with another car that you have been traveling with or seen for a long time on the road. You begin to feel like you know the person and have formed a bond by having the same mindset of enjoying the ride, not being pressured to go any faster or slower. I again used personification with the car by giving it a human action. I like this stanza because this is my favorite type of person to be on the road with.

4. The fourth stanza describes semi-truck drivers and how massive and dominant their vehicles are. This is written from the perspective of other drivers and how miniscule they feel when driving on the road with these rigs. Personification was used this time with the rigs tires and how they do both the actions of attacking the road and praying. I put in the specific time of the trucks taking an hour to pass to give insight that it takes a really long time because of their size and weight.

5. The last stanza describes motorcycle riders. It gives us the insight to different habits and cliches that motorcycle drivers tend to have. The riders were compared to a wolf pack adding in that sense of imagery to the animal kingdom. I also used personification to bring life to the bikes, giving them a voice. The end explains that driving doesn't have to be boring and you only do it because you have to, it can be fun just like playing with a toy.