The reflective essay by Alice Munro is poignant and manages induce a sense of impending tragedy in the reader. Munro achieves this through many techniques such as symbolism, juxtaposition and foreshadowing. As a means to understand this, let us consider the overall plot of the essay.

The author begins by associating disasters in her life with snowstorm. She then, goes on to talk about the removal of her appendix and the snowstorm on that fateful day and sees herself as someone who is “touched by death” due to the experience. Then, Munro mentions the presence of a growth observed during the surgery. This growth, the size of a “turkey’s egg” is associated with cancer and makes the reader think that the subsequent mental issues that the author faces stems from that. Munro also mentions her playful and happy childhood with her sister in detail and goes on to say that her disease caused her to isolate herself from her sister and have strange and dreadful thoughts of killing her. This stark contrast in personality serves as a means to measure the level of mental inhibition caused by her disease. However, even more interesting is the nighttime prowling by the author outside the house where it seems to be the only time where the author is at peace with herself. Toward the end of the essay, Munro gets caught by her father wondering at night and was finally able to tell him of her thoughts and her fears. From then on, she finally able to sleep.

However one of the most outstanding elements of *Night* is the concept of gradual decay in life. The author eventually portrays her decay in overall health. Night was a symbol of this illness, of her gradual isolation from her family and the world in general; trying to find meaning in nature while wondering in the darkness. Whenever the demons of her illness start affecting her mind, the author finds peace by wondering through the night. In a sense, the author sees the night as a panacea, a means to protect herself from her loved ones (especially his sister). However, one of the more disturbing aspects of the essay is the author’s ability to lead on the reader. She creates such a dark mood and presence that the reader is left to think that the worst is about to happen (murder of the sister) and is left unsatisfied towards the end. However, this is more of a personal preference than a flaw; not many audiences would prefer the tragedies of Shakespeare to a tale of redemption.