

what would be purposeful, fulfilling?
aesthetic? Superfluous?

Gathering Leaves - what's the point?

declaratives - wisdom?

singsong - childish
contained rhyme scheme
quatrains

A Spades take up leaves

B No better than spoons, then why are you using a spade??

pithy
sarcastic
knowing

A And bags full of leaves

B Are light as balloons. trivial comparison
pretend matter

all he really produces

literally/metaphorically weightless

C I make a great noise

D Of rustling all day

E Like rabbit and deer

D Running away.

aligns himself with vulnerable animals? evasive

hyperbole

mutual evasion

But the mountains I raise hubristic

personification

Elude my embrace, - comical

Flowing over my arms futility of desperate attempt to

And into my face. comic

impose order on nature

repetition mimics repetitive nature of work

I may load and unload

Again and again

Till I fill the whole shed,

And what have I then? futility of labour
rhetorical questions

Next to nothing for weight,

And since they grew duller

From contact with earth,

Next to nothing for color.

negation - pointlessness

Next to nothing for use.

human condition - temptation to feel
false achievement in control, purposeful

But a crop is a crop, why do we gather leaves? sense of false productivity

And who's to say where

The harvest shall stop? } extends meaning out to question / encourage
contemplation of value of all work

links to Mending Wall, Apple Picking, Mowing