**Did I Miss Anything?** Tom Wayman

Nothing. When we realized you weren’t here  
we sat with our hands folded on our desks  
in silence, for the full two hours.

     Everything. I gave an exam worth  
     40 percent of the grade for this term  
     and assigned some reading due today  
     on which I’m about to hand out a quiz  
     worth 50 percent.

Nothing. None of the content of this course  
has value or meaning.  
Take as many days off as you like:  
any activities we undertake as a class  
I assure you will not matter either to you or me  
and are without purpose.

     Everything. A few minutes after we began last time  
     a shaft of light suddenly descended and an angel  
     or other heavenly being appeared  
     and revealed to us what each woman or man must do  
     to attain divine wisdom in this life and  
     the hereafter.  
     This is the last time the class will meet  
     before we disperse to bring the good news to all people on earth.

Nothing. When you are not present  
how could something significant occur?

     Everything. Contained in this classroom  
     is a microcosm of human experience  
     assembled for you to query and examine and ponder.  
     This is not the only place such an opportunity has been gathered,

     but it was one place

     And you weren’t here.

**What is the tone of this poem? Provide one example from the poem to support your answer.**