The poem “Love Is Not an Emergency” by Erin Belieu is about why we love. The poem’s structure consists of many couplets. Belieu uses back to back metaphors and similes towards the middle of the poem. She uses the simile, “So the world’s saddest thing shakes you like a Magic 8 Ball.” This is to show how the sad things in life make people depressed. She also says, “the minstrel who smeared of the blackface of love, rattling his damage like a tambourine.” This metaphor represents the danger of love.

Belieu’s tone seems speculative as to why we love. She first looks at the misery it brings but later shifts to the pleasures of it. Belieu presents multiple pieces of evidence of both before concluding, “we all need to eat.” Eating is mandatory of survival. By saying this she implies that is necessary and natural for us to love.