

Childhood, Adolescence, and Growing Up

Strangers pg. 25 by B. Abbott

1. The poem plays with line breaks by including enjambed lines and end stopped lines. Find examples of each and explain its effect. What is it trying to emphasize?

Enjambed	End-Stopped Lines	Effect

2. Identify figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, and/or idiom. Explain what's being conveyed.

Example	Type of Figurative Language	Explanation
Everywhere you go, other than your daily routine you are surrounded by strangers.		
Your world is so microscopic. A tiny habitable palace.		
There is a wall surrounding whom you do not want them to know.		
There is only so much room behind said wall and you are only able to let in a trusted few.		

Not enough people actually know each other. You barely know enough people to say hi to as you pass them by on the street. Everywhere you go, other than your daily routine, you are surrounded by strangers. Your world is so microscopic. A tiny little habitable palace. There is a wall surrounding whom you do not want them to know. The inner being you truly are. Protected. Guarded. Sheltered. Most will never meet. This is why we value our friendships. This is why we value love. This is why we value companionship. Loyalty. There is only so much room behind said wall and you are only able to let in a trusted few. And it's beautiful. Now, what if all the strangers knew?

3. Find examples of sound devices: alliteration, assonance, consonance, and/or repetition.

Sound Device	Example

4. Why do people tend to put up walls?

5. What do you think the author means in asking, "What if all the strangers knew?"?

6. What do you think the theme of the poem is?

Name

Date

Hour

Clichés by Gabbie Hanna

1. The poem contains a number of idioms. Identify a few of them and explain what is being expressed.

Idiom	Explanation

2. The speaker expresses annoyance or frustration with advice she’s given about love, mostly that the advice that she receives are full of contradictions. What are some of them?

Piece of Advice	Contradiction

B. What might these contradictions say about love?

Is it “never give up on the one you love.”
 Or “if you love them, let them go”
 ‘cause these quotes are getting confusing
 and, honestly, I just gotta know.
 ‘cause they say “when it’s right, it’s easy”
 but also “relationships take a lot of work.”
 most would agree on the first one,
 unless their loved one is a jerk.
 they say that “time heals all wounds”
 but also “absence makes the heart grow fonder.”
 how both sentiments could be true,
 one truly has no ponder.
 So should we have a lot in common,
 or do opposites attract?
 i suppose that depends on if you have similar interests
 to the chick with the awesome rack.

3. What is the speaker’s overall feeling about love? What might the theme of the poem be?

4. Which sentiment(s) do you agree with?

Young People’s Blues by Patrick Doyle

Chorus: We’re just young people
 Singing the blues.
 We’re just young people,
 bein’ blue ain’t news.

You go to bed at night,
 And think about the next day,
 You try to finish your homework,
 But sometimes there ain’t no way.

It’s hard to concentrate on school,
 When you got the Young People’s Blues,
 But no one wants to hear it,
 Bein’ blue ain’t new news.

1. What is the rhyme scheme after the chorus?

2. Find examples of sound devices: alliteration, assonance, consonance, and/or repetition.

Sound Device	Example

Name

Date

Hour

Some kids are satisfied
With computers and video machines,
Or a winter house in Florida
A credit card from Filene's

3. How does the author show the contrast of two types of teenagers?

For others it's not material possessions,
It's a satisfaction in life.
For still others not satisfied,
It's a quick slice of a knife.

4. Why do people not want to hear about the young people's blues?
What does it make it seem like adults do?

Everyone has problems,
I know that's not news.
But I do know that we're the only ones
Who have the Young People's Blues.

5. What do you think the theme of the poem is?

Watching Changes Through a Lens by Sarah Kassler

I watch the people around me.
I watch them change and move.
They all choose different paths.
Changing in their own way;
I watch mistakes and victories.

I watch my family change.
They grow out of things too.
As if they were an old
pair of jeans.
Finally deciding to go
And buy a new pair.

I see people trying too hard to change
as everyone else does.
I seem some get caught
in a flow of people.
Being drowned in them as
if they were water.
Being carried away in their current.
I see others being left behind.

1. The speaker uses figurative language throughout. Find examples of and explain what she's trying to convey.

Figurative Language	Example	Explanation

Sometimes I look back to me.
I look back,
Seeing how I have
changed in the years
Remembering all my mistakes
and victories
Focusing my lens on me.

2. Find examples of sound devices. Alliteration, Assonance, Consonance, and/or repetition.

Everyone around me changing
Growing out of things and
People like clothes
Trying to find their own
personality.

Sound Device	Example

Name

Date

Hour

3. What is the speaker trying to convey about people and their identities?

4. Is it important to change? Do personalities often change like clothing? Explain.

Variation on a Theme by Rilke by Denise Levertov

1. In this poem, a day is given human qualities. What idea does Levertov highlight through the use of personification?

A certain day became a presence to me; there it was, confronting me—a sky, air, light: a being. And before it started to descend from the height of noon, it leaned over and struck my shoulder as if with the flat of a sword, granting me honor and a task. The day's blow rang out, metallic—or it was I, a bell awakened, and what I heard was my whole self saying and sing what I knew: *I can*

2. The author also uses a simile. Identify the simile and explain what idea is conveyed?

Simile	What is being conveyed?

3. What did the speaker hear when “the days blow rang out”?

4. What is the theme of the poem? What does it suggest about possibility?

The Young Ones, Flip Side

by James Emanuel

In tight pants, tight skirts,
Stretched and squeezed,
Youth hurts.
Crammed in, bursting out,
Flesh will sing and hide in doubt.
In nervous hips, hopping glance
Usurping rogue,
Provoking stance.

Put off, or put on,
Youth hurts. And then
It's gone.

1. Find examples of figurative language and explain what's being conveyed?

Figurative Language	Example	Explanation

2. Find examples of sound devices: Alliteration, assonance, consonance, and/or repetition

Sound Device	Example

3. How does the speaker describe youth?

4. What might the theme be?