

Follow, Follow, Follow: Conforming to Society

Task 1: Resolving Family Conflict

Activity 1: Resolving Family Conflict Through Poetry

Directions:

You will select and read two poems from the list below. You will need to paraphrase and analyze each poem to complete this activity. After reading, complete all parts of the activity.

Choose two of the following poems:

- “When I was One-And-Twenty” A.E. Houseman
- “Women” Alice Walker <http://poetry.rapgenius.com/Alice-walker-women-annotated>
- “My Papa’s Waltz” Theodore Roethke
- “Those Winter Sundays” Robert Hayden
<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/learning/guide/177415#poem>

Author	A.E. Houseman	Title	“When I Was One-And-Twenty”
1. Paraphrase (explain in your own words) the poem in 3-5 sentences			
The speaker, reflecting on his life at the age of 21, is getting advice on love and how to avoid heartbreak. Give away your material things but not your heart. The speaker does not listen to the advice until ages.			
2. Give one example of figurative language from the poem			
Quote the line from the poem	Answers will vary Ex: “Give crowns and pounds and guineas. . .give pearls away and rubies”		
State the type of figurative language being used in this quote	Answers will vary, but the following types of figurative language exist Ex: imagery or symbolism Other answers may include: metaphor, metonymy, hyperbole, end rhyme, repetition		
3. List and explain the speaker’s most important trait.			
Speaker	Answers can vary		

	Ex: An adult reflecting back on being 21 and 22 years old
Most Important Trait	Ex: Reflective
Example from the poem that helped you determine the most important trait.	Ex: "And I am two-and-twenty, And oh, 'tis true, 'tis true."
4. Analyze the speaker's attitude:	
Explain the speaker's attitude toward adult figure(s) in the poem.	Answers will vary Ex: Adults have knowledge about issues of the heart
Provide one example from the poem that illustrates this attitude.	Ex: "I heard a wise man say,/"Give crowns and pounds and guineas/But not your heart away;"

Author	Alice Walker	Title	"Women"
1. Paraphrase (explain in your own words) the poem in 3-5 sentences			
The speaker is a child speaking about women of older generations. Their strength and sacrifice provides a better life for their children, specifically through education, in a time of Civil Rights and women's suffering. The implication is that they are a minority group. The whole poem is a battle metaphor.			
2. Give one example of figurative language from the poem			
Quote the line from the poem	Answers will vary Ex: "With fists as well as/hands/how they battered down/doors"		
State the type of figurative language being used in this quote	Ex: metaphor Other types of figurative language could include: imagery, symbolism, consonance/assonance, connotation		
3. List and explain the speaker's most important trait.			
Speaker	Answers may vary The speaker is reflecting on the mother's strength from childhood. It can be inferred that the speaker is the author.		
Most Important Trait	Answers may vary Ex: Gratitude		

Example from the poem that helped you determine the most important trait.	The speaker is appreciative of the sacrifices and strength of women who came before her.
4. Analyze the speaker's attitude:	
Explain the speaker's attitude toward adult figure(s) in the poem.	Answers may vary Ex: Awe
Provide one example from the poem that illustrates this attitude.	"How they knew what we/ <i>Must</i> know/Without knowing a page/Of it/Themselves."

Author	Theodore Roethke	Title	"My Papa's Waltz"
1. Paraphrase (explain in your own words) the poem in 3-5 sentences			
The speaker, a male child, recalls a time with his father. It can be inferred that the father has been influenced by alcohol. One possible interpretation of the poem is that the father is treating the child more roughly than usual, dancing as the pots are falling off the shelf and the mother is frowning. The father has rough, dirty hands, and eventually carries the speaker to bed.			
2. Give one example of figurative language from the poem			
Quote the line from the poem	Answers will vary Ex: "But I hung on like death:"		
State the type of figurative language being used in this quote	Ex: Simile Other answers can include: Imagery, end rhyme, symbolism		
3. List and explain the speaker's most important trait.			
Speaker	The speaker is an adult reminiscing on a childhood memory with his father.		
Most Important Trait	Answer will vary Ex: Detail-oriented		
Example from the poem that helped you determine the most important trait.	Ex: The speaker remembers vivid details such as the father's palm caked with dirt and a knuckle that was battered.		

4. Analyze the speaker's attitude.	
Explain the speaker's attitude toward adult figure(s) in the poem.	Answers will vary Ex: Complacent
Provide one example from the poem that illustrates this attitude.	Ex: The speaker provides a matter-of-fact, ambivalent description of a singular event. Several examples could be provided.

Author	Robert Hayden	Title	"Those Winter Sundays"
1. Paraphrase (explain in your own words) the poem in 3-5 sentences			
The speaker is a child taking note of the hard life of a father who takes good care of the family even if he may not be the kindest of parents. He gets up early, warms the home, polishes the shoes, but perhaps shows his love through these actions and not emotions. There is a definite tension in the home but it is left to interpretation as to why.			
2. Give one example of figurative language from the poem			
Quote the line from the poem	Answers will vary Ex: ". . .and put on his clothes in the blueblack cold,"		
State the type of figurative language being used in this quote	Answers will vary Ex: imagery Other examples could include: onomatopoeia, personification, symbolism, repetition, alliteration		
3. List and explain the speaker's most important trait.			
Speaker	The speaker is remembering the sacrifices of a hard-working father.		
Most Important Trait	Answers will vary Ex: Gratitude		
Example from the poem that helped you determine the most important trait.	Ex: "No one ever thanked him."		
4. Analyze the speaker's attitude:			

Explain the speaker's attitude toward adult figure(s) in the poem.	Answers will vary Ex: Appreciative
Provide one example from the poem that illustrates this attitude.	Ex: "What did I know, what did I know/of love's austere and lonely offices?"