

Using **MIST** complete the analysis of “*More Dangerous Air*” by Margarita Engle. With your partner, see if you can construct a thesis statement for an essay. You are not writing the essay now, just the thesis statement.

Note the background information at the bottom of the chart.

<i>More Dangerous Air</i> BY MARGARITA ENGLE	Mood: WAHOO or BOOHOO Sound and sense	Imagery: adjectives, connotation, antithesis, juxtaposition. Auditory, tactile, gustatory, visual, olfactory, taste Figurative Language	Structure and Shifts: patterns, syntax, repetitions	Tension: what seems to be the problem the piece considers? What emotions or ideas seem to be engaged or in opposition?
At school, they instruct us to look up and watch the Cuban-cursed sky. Search for a streak of light. Listen for a piercing shriek, the whistle that will warn us as poisonous A-bombs zoom close.	“Cuban-cursed” “piercing shriek” “poisonous” “A-bomb”	“watch the Cuban-cursed sky” “Search for a streak of light” “Listen for a piercing shriek” “whistle will warn us”	No rhyme scheme or identifiable structure Word choice is simple, but is manipulated to have an powerful impact	
Hide under a desk. Pretend that furniture is enough to protect us against perilous flames. Radiation. Contamination. Toxic breath.				
Each air-raid drill is sheer terror, but some of the city kids giggle. They don't believe that death is real.				Innocence vs. Reality
They've never touched a bullet, or seen a vulture, or made music by shaking the jawbone of a mule.				Children have not seen the realities of life and don't understand.
When I hide under my frail school desk, my heart grows as rough and brittle as the slab of wood that fails to protect me from reality's gloom.			SHIFT changes from talking about children to talking about narrator	

This poem takes place during the Cuban Missile Crisis. This was a tense time between the two-world superpower in the 1960's, the United States and the Soviet Union. The threat of a nuclear attack on the two countries was high, and the fear in the people in the United States was great. This poem gives insight into that time.