

Mock Reading: Question 1 - Poetry 2015

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boys / still joined in one shadow, indivisible twins” (20-21). The storyteller is compared to lamplight, to an illuminating spot of light and knowledge in the darkness, and the boys together are rapt listeners, further joined together by their shared wonder.

Additionally, throughout the poem, the speaker suggests the profound impact that the experience has had on his memories and the way in which it still affects him today: “...lucent as paper lanterns, / lamplight glowed through the ribs, house after house -- / there was her own lamp at the black twist of the path. / There’s childhood, and there’s childhood’s aftermath” (9-12). The speaker compares the lit houses with closed shutters to childhood, a warm but unknowing time; however, he compares the storyteller’s house to the aftermath of childhood. Not only does this strengthen the idea that the stories heard there continued to impact him after childhood, but the description of the “black twist” also adds an almost sinister tone, a mention of the unknown. Towards the end of the piece he also says, “In the gully of her voice / shadows stood up and walked, her voice travels my shelves” (18-19). This statement suggests that in the books he now reads, he hears echoes of her voice and her stories, which impacted him so deeply as a child and will never leave his memory.

Walcott utilizes extremely detailed depictions of the speaker’s childhood life and his journey to listen to the storyteller to provide readers with a sense of the awe and wonder the speaker felt as a child and to explain how it has continued to affect him and follow him throughout his life.

625 words

Sample A	1
Sample B	2
Sample C	3
Sample D	4
Sample E	5
Sample F	6
Sample G	7
Sample H	8
Sample I	9

