

POETRY

**TP-CASTT each of the following poems in your STAAR packet.
Answer the questions that go along with the poems in your
packet as well. You only need to write down the letter of the
correct answer for each question.**

Reminiscing

By Ralph Cortez

- 1 Watermelons were so much sweeter then,
- 2 When boys were the stuff of super men,
- 3 And summers seemed so much longer too,
- 4 With nothing pending and nothing due.
- 5 We were swordsmen—swashbuckling heroes,
- 6 Eternal victors—never zeroes;
- 7 Second basement and clean-up hitters;
- 8 Forever winners, never quitters.
- 9 Play was a ritual in those days,
- 10 To go on magical mind forays,
- 11 To play the game with aplomb and ease,
- 12 To venture forth when and where we'd please.
- 13 We would feign death, and then rise up again,
- 14 Watermelons were so much sweeter then.

Piano

By D.H. Lawrence

1 Softly, in the dusk, a woman is singing to me:
2 Taking me back down the vista of years, till I see
3 A child sitting under the piano, in the boom of the tingling strings
4 And pressing the small, poised feet of a mother who smiles as
she sings.

5 In spite of myself, the insidious mastery of song
6 Betrays me back, till the heart of me weeps to belong
7 To the old Sunday evenings at home, winter outside
8 And hymns in the cozy parlor, the tinkling piano our guide.

9 So now it is vain for the singer to burst into clamor
10 With the great black piano appassionato. The glamour
11 Of childish days is upon me, my manhood is cast
12 Down in the flood of remembrance, I weep like a child for the
past.

1. The word “*appassionato*” in line 10 of “Piano” contains the Latin root *passion* that tells you that the music is played
 - a. Soft and quietly
 - b. Loudly and humorously
 - c. With a gentle touch
 - d. With strong feeling
2. What is the main purpose of “Reminiscing”?
 - a. To tell a story about a childhood experience
 - b. To capture a feeling from the past
 - c. To debate whether childhood or adulthood is better
 - d. To describe a person who was important in the life of a child
3. In lines 11 and 12 of “Piano,” the words “my manhood is cast down in the flood of remembrance” mean that the speaker feels
 - a. Proud of what he has accomplished.
 - b. Strongly connected to his father.
 - c. That his mother relied on him when he was a child.
 - d. As if he were a child.
4. In “Piano,” what causes the speaker to recall a memory?
 - a. A winter day
 - b. A woman singing
 - c. The sight of a piano
 - d. Familiar music
5. The structure of “Reminiscing” is similar to that of the “Piano” in that *both* poems
 - a. Separate ideas into stanzas.
 - b. Alternate the length of lines.
 - c. Organize lines into rhyming couplets.
 - d. Use the same number of syllables per line.

Poetry Analysis:

TPCASTT

Title – Think about the title before you read the poem. What do you think the poem might be about?

Paraphrase – Put into your own words parts of the poem that are the most difficult.

Connotation – Highlight words you see as important, even if you don't know them. What ideas/feelings are associated with these words?

Attitude – What is the speaker's attitude toward the situation?

Shifts – Are there shifts in speaker? Shifts in attitude? What are they?

Title – Look at the title again. How have your ideas about the meaning of the title changed?

Theme – What is the author saying? What is his comment on his subject? What is the overall message or theme of the poem?