

Strategy 2: Questions Tell You A Lot

STRATEGY 2: PRACTISE

Compare your observations with a student's notes.

- _____ 1. The sense of **distance between mother and son** is first conveyed in the phrase

There is a distance between mother & son more than once in the poem.

- A. "slipped from the womb" (lines 1–2)
- B. "sat him in a corner" (line 6)
- C. "his ears echoed with voices" (lines 10–11)
- D. "speaking always to someone else" (lines 12–13)

- _____ 2. The **effect** of **television** on the **boy's development** is **most appropriately** described as

For some reason, TV is affecting the boy's development.

- A. exciting
- B. enriching
- C. paralyzing
- D. patronizing

- _____ 3. **In context**, the use of the word "**cathode**" in lines 8 and 65, **implies**

I have to watch how the word "cathode" is used in the poem to see what it "implies."

- A. the boy's excitement builds when watching television
- B. the boy is defiant because of what he watches on television
- C. the television has had a negative effect on the boy's development
- D. the boy and his parents will become closer as a result of what they have learned

- _____ 4. The use of **metaphor** to illustrate the **long-term effect of television** on the boy is **most dramatically** conveyed in which of the following lines?

The poet uses a comparison (metaphor) to how TV affects the boy.

- A. "his parents plugged/his umbilical cord/into a living room outlet/and sat him in a corner" (lines 3–6)
- B. "They didn't worry,/for in their hectic days,/they needed their child to be/the way he was" (lines 27–30)
- C. "From the first minute of silence,/the boy missed television" (lines 39–40)
- D. "His mind was a scrapbook/of images that did not connect,/his present was simply/where he was now, and/his future was/empty of possibilities" (lines 54–59)

- _____ 5. **By comparing** the phrase "his ears/echoed with voices/speaking always to/someone else" (**lines 10–13**) to the phrase "Oh, plug him in again!" (**line 60**), the poet reinforces the idea that, for the boy,

The two quotations must have a similar meaning because of the use of "comparing" in the question stem.

- A. his communication with both the television and with his parents is passive
- B. the only meaningful communication occurs when the boy watches television
- C. his communication with both the television and with his parents is fulfilling
- D. the only meaningful communication occurs when the boy is engaged in conversation with his parents