

Answer questions 1–5, based on your reading of “Television’s Child.”

*Introduces
the idea of
distance and
refers to lines
early in the
poem*

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

*Introduces an
important idea in
the poem*

2. The effect of television on the boy’s development is **most appropriately** described as
 - a. exciting
 - b. enriching
 - c. paralyzing
 - d. patronizing

*Addresses
specific
vocabulary in
the poem*

3. In context, the use of the word “cathode” in lines 8 and 65, 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

*Addresses
figure of
speech
(metaphor)
in the poem*

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?
 - 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)

*Focuses on
the main idea
of the poem,
comparing
quotations
from the
beginning and
the end of the
poem*

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 main idea that, for the boy,
 - 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