

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

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)
2. The effect of television on the boy’s development is **most appropriately** described as
 - a. exciting
 - b. enriching
 - c. paralyzing
 - d. patronizing
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
4. The use of **metaphor** to illustrate the long-term effects 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)
5. By comparing the phrase “his ears echoed with voices speaking always to else” (lines 10–13) to the phrase “Oh, plug him in again!” (line 60), the poet reinforces the 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 this parents

“most appropriately” tells me that the there will be more than one possible answer, but one will be more “appropriate” than the other. With no reference to specific lines, I have to consider the whole poem.

“most dramatically” suggests that the answer will have dramatic phrasing to make the effect seem like a big deal. All the alternatives have line numbers, so I have to read each of them closely to make sure they illustrate the long-term effect and contain a metaphor.