Poetry Kit

**Directions:** Read the poem in this issue of *Storyworks*, then answer the questions below to help you understand it.

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**Title and Poet**

**I. Must-Know Words:** The words below are important for understanding the poem. See if you can figure out what they mean as you read, or look them up in the dictionary. Then create your own way to remember their meanings. For each, you can write your own definition, draw a picture, list a synonym, or devise another way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>dawn</th>
<th>form</th>
<th>evidence</th>
<th>tribes</th>
<th>origin</th>
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**II. Break It Down!**

How many lines does the poem have? ________

*Number the lines of the poem to help you keep track of them as you answer the questions below.*

**Lines 1-10**

1. *Repetition* refers to a word or phrase being repeated for effect. At a glance, which word is repeated? Why does the poet most likely use this word so many times?

   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

2. Reread lines 1-6. Why might the poet urge readers to remember the sky, the stars, the moon, and the sun?

   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

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3. Reread lines 7-10. What does the poet want readers to remember about their birth? Why do you think she wants them to remember this?
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______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. What is each person evidence of, according to the poem?
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______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Lines 11-22
5. Metaphors are words or phrases that compare two things without using *like* or *as*. What is the metaphor in line 11? What do you think the poet is saying in lines 11-13?
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______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

6. What does the poet most likely mean when she says plants and animals have histories too, and readers should talk and listen to them?
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______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

7. How are lines 19-20 similar to lines 21-22? Why did the poet most likely structure them this way?
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Lines 23-26
8. The poet says that language and life are a dance. Why does she most likely use this metaphor?

______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

III. Sum It Up!
Answer the following questions, thinking about the meaning of the whole poem.

9. What is the main idea of the poem? Support your answer with details from the poem.
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______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

10. How does poet Joy Harjo most likely feel about family and nature based on her writing?
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______________________________________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________________________________

IV. Make a Connection!
Read the fiction article “There Were Giants” in this issue of Storyworks. Then choose one of the writing prompts below and answer it in a well-organized paragraph on the back of this page or on a separate sheet of paper.

• What do the story “There Were Giants” and the poem “Remember” say about the role of our families in our lives? Are the messages similar or different in these works?

• What do you think Marie would think about the poem “Remember” at the beginning of “There Were Giants”? What might she think about it at the end of the story, and why? Use details from the story and the poem in your answer.
**“Remember” Quiz**

**Directions:** Read the poem “Remember” in the March/April 2020 issue of Storyworks. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. What is the tone, or the speaker’s attitude, in the poem’s first two lines?
   - A. grateful
   - B. informative
   - C. playful
   - D. sorry

2. The poet says, “Remember you are all people . . .” What does she mean by this?
   - A. You have different moods sometimes.
   - B. You and all humans share a common bond.
   - C. You will go through all stages of life: child, teen, and adult.
   - D. You have the same personality as everyone else.

3. The word dance in the last stanza most nearly means ______.
   - A. quick escape
   - B. body movement
   - C. enjoyable journey
   - D. party with music and snacks

4. Which statement below best expresses the message of the poem?
   - A. Appreciate all life.
   - B. Keep your memory sharp.
   - C. We should all be the same.
   - D. Take better care of the environment.

**Constructed Response**

**Directions:** On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response. Make sure you support your answers with details from the poem.

5. Read the seventh stanza of the poem. Explain what you think an “alive poem” is.

6. Personification is a type of figurative language that poets use to describe an object or an animal as being human. For example, the moon is a “she” in this poem. What are two more examples of personification in the poem?