

The following poem is by Rachel M. Harper. Read the poem carefully. Then, considering such elements as imagery, form and tone, write a well-organized essay in which you analyze the relationship between music and the speaker's complex memories of her family.

- Imagery
 - ~~Music as genetics – family pass down~~
 - Record Player (symbol)
 - Hardwood, Damp, November - Struggle/Poverty
 - Incomplete - Missing something in the family
 - Warmth of Family & Conflict/Complexity that is shown
 - Time moving forward "Memories fading..."
 - "Saxophone's Blow" - Harshness of remembering
- Form
 - 2 Shifts
 - Warm type memories
 - Cold type memories
 - Solemn "But the music will remain."
- Tone
 - Hardwood, Damp, November - Tone of coldness
 - "Incomplete" - Tone of loneliness or loss or missing
 - "Memories fading...words of a lullaby" - Tone of soft healing vs. saxophone blow (tone of harshness)
 - Healing vs. Remembering

The correlation between music and the poet's family, is a complex battle of highs and lows. The poet engages her audience with sophisticated and moving language that transposes into a look through her childhood and adolescence moving the reader through a symphony of emotions and into her adult world. Harper employs contrasting imagery such as the fond melodies of her childhood and the harshness of a family in struggle, along with her love of music to convey her memories and growth throughout her adult life.

Harper begins the poem with a very distinct image, that serves to establish the connection between her love and admiration of music and her family. She employs words such as, "Passed on" and "Inheritance" to make this establishment. These words serve to offer a tone of love, and comfort of a family lineage. She includes the line "This melody is my inheritance." With the word melody, offering a sweet and soft connotation to establish her early feelings of her family dynamic, juxtaposed with her love of music and the role that music has played throughout her life.

Through the symbol of the record player, Harper captures the memories of growing up listening to music, but is doubtful of its effect. She states "This is the only myth I know." The word myth serves to offer doubt within the poet's life. She goes on to describe an event sitting on hardwood floors playing cards. Words such as "Hardwood floors", "damp", and "November" paint a grimly picture of a family in struggle. November can symbolize a time of transition and complexity that is mirrored within her family dynamic.