

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 tradition~~
 - ~~Childhood memories~~
 - ~~Wall Art~~
 - ~~Record Player~~
 - ~~Oral history~~
 - Environment
 - Hardwood
 - Damp
 - November
 - Incomplete - Missing something from within the family, etc. Transition, etc.
 - Family Warmth
 - Time moving forward "memories fading"
 - "Saxophone's Blow" - Harshness of remembering
- Form
 - 2 Shifts/Movements
 - Warm type memories
 - Colder type memories
 - Solemn "But the music will remain."
 - Jazz
 - Elements of Jazz vs. poem structure
- Tone
 - Hardwood, Damp, November, etc. - coldness
 - "Incomplete" - loneliness & loss
 - "Memories fading...words of a lullaby" - Soft healing vs. harshness of sax.
 - Healing vs. Remembering

In *The Myth of Music* by Rachel M. Harper, music is the road to the poet's past. The bonds between music and family can sometimes be a battle between highs and lows. The poet engages her audience with sophisticated and moving language that transposes into a look of her childhood and adolescence moving the reader through a symphony of emotions and a glimpse into her adult world. Harper employs contrasting imagery between her childhood family memories listening and learning from the record player, and a life with considerable struggles, all of which convey the challenges that can come with a broken family.

Harper begins the poem with a very distinct image, that serves to establish the connection between her love and admiration of music and that of 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 symbols such as the record player, the album wall art, and the "history" that was subsequently taught to Harper, she captures the memories of a growing up, listening and learning from music. With the incorporation of these symbols, Harper transports the reader to her childhood, implying the lessons learned from the music. However, she offers a doubt to this effect with "This is the only myth I know." The word myth serves to offer doubt within the poet's life, which can be a resemblance of a broken family.