

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~~
  - Soft vs. aggressive
  - ~~Childhood memories~~
    - ~~Wall art~~
    - ~~Record Player~~
    - ~~History, etc.~~
  - Environment
    - Hardwood
    - Damp
    - November
  - Incomplete - Missing something within the family/brokenness
  - Family warmth
  - Time moving forward "memories fading"
  - "Saxophone's Blow" - Harshness of remembering
- Form
  - 2 shifts/movements
    - Warm type of memories
    - Colder type of memories
    - Solemn "but the music will remain."
  - Jazz Elements
    - Form of the poem following a jazz style
- Tone
  - Hardwood, Damp, November, etc. - coldness
  - Incomplete - loneliness of loss
  - "Memories fading...words of a

The bonds between music and family can sometimes be a battle between highs and lows. Much like in music, with high and low notes, family dynamics can experience similar parallels. The poet engages her audience with sophisticated and moving language that transposes into a look through her childhood and into her adolescence moving the reader through a symphony of emotions and a glimpse into her adult world. Families are inherently complicated, Harper composes a vivid picture of her own family's struggle; she incorporates images of her childhood memories, such as the lessons she learned from the record player, along with distinct tones that emphasize her family's complexities over time, 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.

- Incomplete - loneliness of loss
- "Memories fading...words of a lullaby" - tone of soft healing vs. harshness of saxophone
  - Healing vs. Remembering

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, which is 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 growing up listening and learning from music. The "wall art" and the "record player" are symbolic elements that reflect the poet's childhood and the impact that was made on her during this time. The poet states "...the lessons sealed into the grooves like fact." Which offers the confirmation that music and experience are hand in hand. Harper goes on to describe a memory of sitting on the floor with her brother dealing cards.