

"Making a Fist" Naomi Shihab Nye

#1) Why might this child in the poem feel "life sliding out"?

• maybe she/he was extremely sick

#2 Line #3 metaphor

life like a drum harder to hear (weakness)

Line #6 metaphor

stomach like a split melon (pain)

note alliteration

drum desert

harder harder hear

Swirl sickening

#3 The conversation concludes with a symbol - making a fist - that the mother makes with a strange confidence. Why?

• a fist is equal to a fight, the mother is telling the child that you know you are going to die when you can no longer fight

#4 In line #9, the author says "We have been traveling for days," what is the author implying about the journey - with "borders we must"

Cross separately"?

- that the mother & child became aware of different things during the journey. The child has come to distinct realizations on her own

What does line #14 say about her views of human life?

- that there will always be questions that cause sadness & worry that will never be answered

#5 What do the last 3 lines mean?

- that she is still fighting behind all her questions that are left unanswered

Why is it important that the speaker is "living still"?

- She's still fighting for the truth

Line #16?


- Aching in pain over the unanswered questions

Line #17?

- but she is still fighting for the answer

.. Night Clouds ..

#1 Begins with a comparison of night clouds to white mares. How is it extended throughout the poem?

- golden hooves on heavens glass
- the stars in the night sky 
- pawing at the green heaven (water)(meadow)
- running madly as the tiger (sun) rises for attack

images of a herd of white stallions running madly through a river over a meadow to survive an attack

#2 How is the sun like a tiger?

- it stalks like a rising sun
- orange
- chases away the cool night air & clouds

How are clouds like white stallions?

- stand out against their environment
- race with the wind

"Reapers" Jean Toomer

#1 What emotional feelings are created in the first 4 lines?

- creepy
- fright
- cold

Pleasant or harsh? Why?

- harsh
- alliteration "s" "h"

Give further evidence?

- the sound of metal grinding
- the image of the blade
- black
- silent

#2 What feelings does the image of the field rat evoke?

- disgust

What can you tell me about the laborer?

- uncaring
- unnoticing
- melancholy

Toward the reaping machines?

- black
- hatred - envy

Get specific examples!

READING COMPREHENSION QUIZ

"Making a Fist," "Night Clouds," and "Reapers"

"Making a Fist"

1. The speaker asks her mother about _____ .
2. What race is the speaker?

"Night Clouds"

1. In the poem, night clouds are referred to as _____ .
2. Give me an example of metaphore.

"Reapers"

1. In the poem, the mower strikes a _____ .
2. What is a reaper?