“Knoxville, Tennessee”

1. Imagery examples: barefooted, be warm, mountains, gospel music, barbeque, okra, cabbage, greens, fresh corn, buttermilk, homemade ice-cream

The imagery helps the reader ***imagine*** (visualize) all the food, the scenery, and it makes the poem very descriptive.

2. I can infer that the speaker had a **happy childhood** that included great summer vacations. The speaker spent a lot of time **outdoors** enjoying nature and family. The speaker also seems to be Christian.

I can tell because of the references to gospel music (Christianity), lines 1-2 (“I always like summer best”), lines 18-19 “go to the mountains with your grandmother”)

“Firework”

1. Similes:

“Do you ever feel like a plastic bag?”

“Do you ever feel, feel so paper thin like a house of cards”

“You don’t have to feel like a waste of space”

“Just own the night like the Fourth of July”

“Like a lightning bolt your heart will glow”

Metaphors: (whole song is an extended metaphor)

“Baby, you’re a firework.”

“You just gotta ignite, the light, and let it shine”

“Cause there’s a spark in you”

“Come on let your colors burst”

“Even brighter than the moon”

2. Onomatopoeia examples:

**“boom, boom, boom”** (also repetition)

3. Imagery examples:

Stanzas 1, 2, 3, 4…pretty much all of them

The imagery helps the reader **visualize and imagine** what the fireworks look like and sound like.

It helps the reader understand and picture what is being described. – Fizza Ibrahim

4. Each person is unique and special; everyone can stand out in his or her own way. Sometimes people are underestimated, so the speaker is encouraging people to be their true selves.

**“You’re original, cannot be replaced” (Katy Perry)**

To be like a firework, people can embrace and accept themselves. Have confidence and a positive attitude.

“Mother to Son”

1. The speaker is a woman. The TITLE helps me figure it out.

2. The message is that we should never, ever, ever give up. Even when life presents challenges, we should be determined and persevere.

Life isn’t easy. It can cruel at times. You just have to go with it. –Chandler de Jong

3. Life was compared to a staircase. For some people life is easy, like a crystal staircase. For others, like is full of difficulties, like a broken down staircase.

4. Imagery examples:

**“I’se been a-climbin’ on, And reachin’ landin’s, and turnin’ corners, and sometimes goin’ in the dark…” (dialect)**

“It’s had tacks in it, and splinters, and boards torn up…”

These lines help the reader visualize the speaker’s path in life AND the damaged staircase.

**Langston Hughes probably used dialect to create authentic (realistic) characters. This is probably how his mother and relatives spoke.**

**6. The reader can infer that the speaker has had a difficult life, and the speaker’s son probably faces some of those same challenges. Poverty may be an issue the family faces. (the Depression era?, racial discrimination?)**

“Jar of Hearts”

1. repetition: “Who do you think you are?”

 “Running ‘round leaving scars”

 “Collecting your jar of hearts”

Repetition is a way for the author to emphasize important lines/information. We realize how much the speaker has been hurt by the ex-boyfriend (presumably).

2. Hyperbole: “I learned to live half alive”

 “Running ‘round leaving scars”

 “You’re gonna catch a cold from the ice inside your soul”

Hyperbole exaggerates and emphasizes the pain the speaker has endured because of this broken relationship.

3. The poem is about someone who is hurt and angry about a relationship that ended badly. The speaker has a broken heart, and there is a suggestion that the speaker’s “ex” was cheating on her. The “ex” wants to get back together, but the speaker is NOT interested in getting back together.

4. Imagery: “leaving scars” “tearing love apart” “jar of hearts” “ice inside your soul”

 “the first time we kissed” “the light in my eyes”

The use of imagery helps the reader visualize the experiences the speaker has endured and the pain the speaker feels.

5. The author’s tone is D. angry, upset

“Television”

1. The author is writing to parents. The author wants parent to limit their children’s exposure to television and to encourage READING. ☺

The last few lines reveal the intended audience, in case readers didn’t “get it” earlier in the poem.

2. The theme is the importance of reading, critical thinking, and developing one’s imagination. Television is damaging to children!

3. Hyperbole:

“And stare until their eyes pop out”

“Last week in someone’s place we saw a dozen eyeballs on the floor.”

“Until they’re hypnotized by it, until they’re absolutely drunk with all that shocking ghastly junk”

The author used hyperbole to emphasize the danger of excessive television viewing and to really “drive home” the point about the importance of creativity and imagination.