

Reading Performance Assessment
High School – 2009 – *I Remember, I Remember*

Practice Task F4

Read the following poem carefully once all of the way through. Then, read it again a second time and **make notes in the margin** as you read. Your notes will be part of your score and should include:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the poem and your reactions to it.
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- Notes and observations on the **literary elements** (figurative language, allusion, imagery, point of view, etc.) and how the poet uses them to create an impact.
- Notes and observations on the **literary devices** (onomatopoeia, personification, alliteration, rhyme, rhythm, etc.) and how the poet uses them to create an impact in the poem.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assessment.

Student _____

Teacher _____ **Class Period** _____

School _____ **School District** _____

I REMEMBER, I REMEMBER

Thomas Hood (1799-1845) was best known for his comic writings during his lifetime, although now he is mainly remembered for his more serious work. Son of a London book seller, he was friends with Charles Dickens and Charles Lamb.

Poem begins on the next page.

This poem is considered to be in the Public Domain.

1. Explain what is happening in each stanza of the poem. Be sure to include the main idea of each stanza and some supporting details.

I Remember, I Remember
Thomas Hood

I remember, I remember
The house where I was born,
The little window where the sun
Came peeping in at morn;
He never came a wink too soon
Nor brought too long a day;
But now, I often wish the night
Had borne my breath away.

I remember, I remember
The roses red and white,
The violets and the lily cups--
Those flowers made of light!
The lilacs where the robin built,
And where my brother set
The laburnum¹ on his birthday,--
The tree is living yet!

I remember, I remember
Where I was used to swing,
And thought the air must rush as
fresh
To swallows on the wing;
My spirit flew in feathers then
That is so heavy now,
The summer pools could hardly cool
The fever on my brow.

I remember, I remember
The fir-trees dark and high;
I used to think their slender tops
Were close against the sky:
It was a childish ignorance,
But now 'tis little joy
To know I'm farther off from Heaven
Than when I was a boy.

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:

Answer the questions below. Give complete answers to each question to demonstrate your understanding of the poem.

¹ a tree with yellow flowers

1. In the poem “I Remember, I Remember,” the speaker is recalling images and details from his past and relating them to his current adult perspective. **Summarize** what **childhood memories** stand out for him **and how he feels as an adult**.

3. The speaker reveals his attitude toward his **childhood** in the poem. Identify **two lines** from the poem that reveal the **speaker’s attitude toward his childhood** and **explain** them.

Line(s) from the poem	Speaker’s attitude toward childhood
A.	
B.	

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4. The speaker also reveals his attitude toward his **present day** life in the poem. Identify **two lines** from the poem that reveal the **speaker's present attitude and explain** them.

Line(s) from the poem	Speaker's attitude toward his present life
A.	
B.	

5. Choose **three images** the poet uses to create different **moods** in the poem. Explain what mood each image creates.

Image (line from poem)	Mood/Feeling created
A.	
B.	
C.	

6. The author uses various techniques to provide structure to this poem. Identify **two or more poetic devices** and **explain their effect** on the poem.

Poetic device	Effect on poem
A.	
B.	

7. The poet uses **contrast** to develop his theme. List at least two examples of **contrasting ideas or images** in the poem.

a.

b.

8. Explain how these **contrasts** reveal a **theme** explored in this poem.