Name _____ Date _____

# Rhyme, Repetition and Sound in a Poem: Night Shift

**Directions:** Read the poem, and listen to its sounds as you read. Then answer each question.

## Night Shift

At nine o'clock my mother laces her sneakers,
kisses my forehead, and says she has to run.
The screen door rattles, headlights cross my ceiling,
and she'll be home when the night is done.

The refrigerator hums, the furnace ticks and taps,
and I count the passing cars, one by one.
Their tires go swishing softly through the snow,
and she'll be home when the night is done.

I picture her at the bakery, white to the elbows,
lifting sacks of flour that weigh about a ton.
The long trays go sliding in and sliding out,
and she'll be home when the night is done.

At six o'clock the deadbolt turns, and I hear her keys.
The kitchen fills with cinnamon and sun.
She leans in my doorway, tired and smiling,
and she is home, and the night is done.

**1.** If you look closely at the last word of every line, which lines rhyme with each other in each stanza of the poem?

A. The first and second lines
B. All four lines
C. The first and third lines
D. The second and fourth lines

**2.** Onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound it describes, the way buzz sounds like a bee and crash sounds like something breaking. Which two words from the poem are examples of onomatopoeia? Select two.

☐ A. rattles
☐ B. swishing
☐ C. leans
☐ D. laces
☐ E. lifting

**3.** What sound device does the poet use in the phrase "the furnace ticks and taps"?

A. Hyperbole
B. Simile
C. Alliteration
D. Rhyme

4. Think about the phrase "the furnace ticks and taps" in the second stanza of the poem. What do the repeated t sounds add to that stanza?

   A. They make the furnace sound like it is about to explode.

   B. They make the night sound loud and full of people.

   C. They show that someone is knocking at the door.

   D. They copy the small, steady sounds the speaker hears in the quiet house.

5. The line "and she'll be home when the night is done." ends each of the first three stanzas. What does this repetition add to the poem?

   A. It tells the exact minute the mother will get home.

   B. It warns that the mother might not come home at all.

   C. It sounds like a promise the speaker keeps repeating while waiting.

   D. It shows that the speaker is bored and has nothing new to say.

6. In the third stanza, the trays go "sliding in and sliding out" of the ovens. What does repeating the word *sliding* suggest?

   A. The speaker cannot think of any other words.

   B. The work goes on in a steady, back-and-forth rhythm all night.

   C. The trays are broken and keep falling.

   D. The mother works slowly because she is tired.

7. When the mother comes home in the last stanza, the speaker says, "The kitchen fills with cinnamon and sun." How do the soft s sounds in this line fit the feeling of that morning?

   A. They make the morning feel warm and gentle.

   B. They suggest that something in the kitchen is burning.

   C. They make the kitchen sound noisy and crowded.

   D. They make the morning feel harsh and cold.

8. The last stanza ends with "and she is home, and the night is done." instead of the line repeated earlier. How does this change fit the poem as a whole?

   A. It shows that the mother has to leave again right away.

   B. It shows that the speaker fell asleep and dreamed the ending.

   C. It turns the hope of the earlier stanzas into relief, because the waiting is over.

   D. It breaks the rhyme pattern to show that something went wrong.