Name _____ Date _____

Comparing the Structure of a Poem and a Scene

Directions: Read the poem and the scene. Both describe the same evening, but each one is built differently. Then answer each question.

Closing Day

Closing Day: The Poem

"One more jump," we beg the lifeguard,
and she sighs, then holds up two fingers: two more.

The water holds the last warm light of August,
while our parents gather towels from the fence
and the snack bar rattles its metal shutter closed.

One more jump,
and the sky above the diving board
fades from orange into lavender into gray.

One more jump,
and the whistle stretches out its long, last note
across the emptying deck.

The gate clicks shut behind us,
and the pool lies perfectly still,
a blue rectangle holding summer
until June.

Closing Day: The Scene

At a quarter to six on the last Sunday in August, the lifeguard blew her whistle and announced that the pool would close for the season in fifteen minutes. Jayden, who was twelve, immediately swam toward the deep end, but his little sister Kiki stayed where she was, gripping the ladder.

"I never went off the diving board," she said. "Not once, all summer."

"You had all summer," Jayden pointed out.

"I was scared all summer," Kiki said quietly.

Jayden glanced at the clock above the snack bar, then back at his sister, who was still clinging to the ladder. Without another word, he climbed out, walked her to the diving board, and planted himself at the bottom of the ladder. "I'll be right here," he said. "Jump whenever you're ready."

Kiki stood at the end of the board for a long time while the other swimmers collected their towels. Finally, with only three minutes left before closing, she pinched her nose, took a deep breath and jumped. When she came up sputtering and grinning, half the pool clapped.

At six o'clock, the whistle blew one final time, and the gate clicked shut behind them.

1. Which feature does the poem use that the scene does not?
A. Paragraphs that move from a problem to its solution
B. Dialogue between two named characters
C. Exact times, such as six o'clock
D. A line, "One more jump," that returns again and again

2. The scene marks time with the clock: a quarter to six, three minutes left, six o'clock. How does this structure affect the scene?
A. It makes the scene feel slow and dreamlike, with no deadline.
B. It builds pressure as closing time gets closer and Kiki still has not jumped.
C. It shows that the events happen out of order.
D. It shows that the pool stays open all night.

3. The poem never mentions a clock. How does it show the passing of time instead?
A. Through a lifeguard who announces the time
B. Through a character who keeps checking her watch
C. Through dates written at the start of each stanza
D. Through the sky fading from orange into lavender into gray

4. In the poem, the words "One more jump" appear three times. What does this repetition add to the poem's meaning?
A. It shows that the speakers are bored with swimming.
B. It shows that the lifeguard is getting angry.
C. It captures the wish to make summer last just a little longer.
D. It tells the reader exactly how many jumps are left.

5. In the scene, Kiki quietly admits, "I was scared all summer," after Jayden says that she had all summer to jump. How does the scene's dialogue add to its meaning?
A. It shows that the lifeguard is angry at the swimmers.
B. It shows that Kiki doesn't want to swim at all.
C. It reveals Kiki's fear and Jayden's support, so the scene becomes a story about facing a fear.
D. It explains why the pool is closing for the season.

6. Which two details appear in both the poem and the scene? Select two.
☐ A. The sky fading into gray
☐ B. The whistle blowing near closing time
☐ C. Kiki jumping off the diving board
☐ D. The gate clicking shut behind the swimmers
☐ E. The lifeguard holding up two fingers

7. The poem says "we" and never names anyone, while the scene follows Jayden and Kiki by name. How does this difference affect each text?
A. The poem shares a feeling many swimmers have, while the scene tells one family's moment.
B. Both texts are told by Kiki.
C. The poem is about only one swimmer, while the scene is about a whole crowd.
D. The poem has no speaker at all, while the scene has no characters.

8. Both texts end as the gate clicks shut. How are their endings different?
A. The poem lingers on the still, empty pool, while the scene moves quickly from Kiki's jump to the final whistle.
B. Both texts end with Kiki jumping into the water.
C. The scene ends in June, while the poem ends in August.
D. The poem ends with dialogue, while the scene ends with an image of the pool.