

Cecil Day-Lewis
Walking away
Even more challenging questions!

Worksheet by: Rosann Tankard Grens High School
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1. "It is eighteen years ago, almost to the day --
A sunny day with the leaves just turning,
The touch-lines new-ruled -- since I watched you play
Your first game of football, then, like a satellite
Wrenched from its orbit, go drifting away
Behind a scatter of boys."

This verse contains an example of parenthesis.

- What is the purpose of parenthesis? (2)
 - Identify the parenthesis in this verse. (2)
 - What is the poet's purpose in using this parenthesis? (4)
2. "Something I never quite grasp to convey
About nature's give-and-take -- the small, the scorching
Ordeals which fire one's irresolute clay."
- What does the poet mean when he speaks of "nature's give-and-take"? (4)
 - Explain the very rich image which the poet presents with the words, "the small, the scorching ordeals which fire one's irresolute clay". (4)
3. "I have had worse partings, but none that so
Gnaws at my mind still. Perhaps it is roughly
Saying what God alone could perfectly show --
How selfhood begins with a walking away,
And love is proved in the letting go."
- If the poet has experienced "worse partings", why then would this "walking away" be the one which gnawed at his mind even after eighteen years? (4)
 - What emotions are conjured up with the word "gnaws"? (2)

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

4. The poet concludes that there are two dramatic lessons to be learned from this "walking away". What are they? (4)
5. What emotions does the poet convey in his title, "Walking away"? (4)

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