

Name: _____

Making inferences

A *poem* can tell a story, often in the voice of a narrator or a character. Such poems, narrative poems, do not need to rhyme.

Hurricane

When I awoke the hurricane was blasting away again, like a jet plane warming up in a locked hangar. Every now and then there were other violent stabbing blasts, like a batch of pneumatic drills boring away in an enclosed hillside quarry. It was even more booming than the first part of the hurricane had been: it was faster too.

I asked papa what time it was, and he said it was almost three o'clock. Then he said that the Eye had lasted a little longer than had been expected; it had continued for more than two hours.

Both he and Mama began to tease me for being dead to the world for so long a time. They said that I had done all sorts of funny things in my sleep; I had squirmed, twitched, talked, giggled, and laughed out loud.

"At one stage of the game," Papa said, "we were going to wake you, Joe. We thought you were going to kill yourself laughing."

That must have been during the first part of my erratic dreams, I said to myself, possibly when I was looking at the boys carrying on at Torrington Bridge.

"No wonder, Joe," Mama said, "All those sandwiches goodness! You wolfed them down like a hound who hadn't seen food for weeks."

(Abstract: "Hurricane" by Andrew Salkey)



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Making inferences

1. What part of speech is used in lines 1: "...*the hurricane was blasting away again, like a jet plane warming up in a locked hangar*".

2. What is a hurricane?

3. How long did the eye of the hurricane lasted?

4. What is meant by the sentence "*Both he and Mama began to tease me for being dead to the world for so long a time*"?

5. According to the parents, what things did the boy do that was funny while he slept?

6. a. What is meant by the words "*erratic dreams*"?

b. What in the passage hinted as to the reason for Joe's "*erratic dreams*"?
