**“Hockey” vs “The Child Who Walks Backwards”**

Task: Read the poems “Hockey” and “The Child Who Walks Backwards”.

**THE CHILD WHO WALKS BACKWARDS**

My next-door neighbour tells me

her child runs into things.

Cupboard comers and doorknobs

have pounded their shapes

into his face. She says 5

he is bothered by dreams,

rises in sleep from his bed

to steal through the halls

and plummet like a wounded bird

down the flight of stairs. 10

This child who climbed my maple

with the sureness of a cat,

trips in his room, cracks

his skull on the bedpost,

smacks his cheeks on the floor. 15

When I ask about the burns

on the back of his knee,

his mother tells me

he walks backwards

into fireplace grates 20

or sits and stares at flames

while sparks burn stars in his skin.

Other children write their names

on the casts that hold

his small bones. 25

His mother tells me

he runs into things,

walks backwards,

breaks his leg

while she lies 30

sleeping.

--Lorna Crozier in The Garden Going on Without Us

*Answer the questions below in your notes:*

1. Explain what this poem is about in your own words.
2. Who is the speaker of poem? Does he or she believe what the other woman is telling him or her? Explain with proof.
3. Identify an example of each of the following devices: personification, simile,
4. Identify one example of each of the following senses: sound, sight

**HOCKEY**

The ice is smooth, smooth, smooth.

The air bites to the center

Of warmth and flesh, and I whirl.

It begins in a game...

The puck swims, skims, veers, 5

Goes leading my vision

Beyond the chasing reach of my stick.

The air is sharp, steel-sharp.

I suck needles of breathing,

And feel the players converge. 10

It grows to a science...

We clot, break, drive,

Electrons in motion

In the magnetic pull of the puck.

The play is fast, fierce, tense. 15

Sticks click and snap like teeth

Of wolves on the scent of a prey,

It ends in the kill...

I am one of the pack in a mad,

Taut leap of desperation 20

In the wild, slashing drive for the goal.

--Scott Blaine

*The Prism of Poetry*

*Answer the questions below in your notes:*

1. Summarize this poem in your own words.
2. Who is the speaker of poem? What is he or she saying about hockey?
3. Identify an example of each of the following devices: personification, alliteration, metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia
4. Identify one example of each of the following senses: sound, sight, touch

**Poetry Review**

Both “Hockey” and “The Child Who Walks Backwards” are considered good poems because they employ poetic devices effectively. Prove each of the following topic sentences using the charts provided:

**The poem “The Child Who Walks Backwards” qualifies as a good poem.**

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| **Quality of a Good Poem** | **Proof** | **Explanation** |
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**The poem “Hockey” uses several poetic devices to effectively create the image of a fast-paced hockey game for the reader.**

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| **Poetic Device** | **Proof** | **Explanation** |
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