



Read the following poems, and then answer the questions.

We Real Cool by Gwendolyn Brooks

THE POOL PLAYERS.

SEVEN AT THE GOLDEN SHOVEL.

*We real cool. We
Left school. We*

*Lurk late. We
Strike straight. We*

*Sing sin. We
Thin gin. We*

*Jazz June. We
Die soon.*

Questions:

1. Whose voice and opinions come through in the poem?
2. How does Brooks create a persona (an identity or role that somebody takes on) for the pool players that both sounds like them and sounds like someone criticizing them?
3. Why does Brooks put the word "We" at the end of almost every line? What effect does this have on the way you read the poem?
4. Do the pool players seem like good or bad people? Would you want to hang out with them? Why? Why not?
5. Does the poem *romanticize* (make something appear glamorous or ideal) "sin" or criticize it?