

STUDENT: Jane Smith  
FRQ: Poetry Analysis

**THE ESSAY PROMPT**

In the following poem by Ted Hughes (published in 1957), the speaker evokes a sense of danger and terror as he details the threatening wind hitting the house and surrounding countryside, causing havoc like a primitive invader. Read the poem carefully. Then, in a well-written essay, analyze how Hughes uses poetic elements and techniques to convey the speaker’s perspective on the struggle between nature and human beings.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible interpretation.
- Select and use evidence to support your line of reasoning.
- Explain how the evidence supports your line of reasoning.
- Use appropriate grammar and punctuation in communicating your argument.

**THE ESSAY PROMPT ASKS THE STUDENT TO**

- Read the poem for its depiction of the wind as a threat to safety
- Read the poem for emphasis on mankind’s vulnerability, as depicted by the speaker’s experiences and emotional responses
- Acknowledge ways in which the many concrete details of the poem signify the great power of nature
- Consider the poet’s use of imagery and metaphor to emphasize the wind’s relentless strength
- Focus on the overall impression of human beings’ struggle against natural forces

**YOUR SCORE**

Thesis <i>1 point</i>	0/1	The student merely makes an observation about poetic techniques rather than offering a defensible thesis. Instead, this intended thesis statement only mimics the prompt.
Evidence and Commentary <i>4 points</i>	2/4	In the only body paragraph, the student provides some specific text evidence, but follows it with a short one sentence commentary only. The student provides commentary on what the evidence shows about the “struggle between humans and nature” describing it as “negative.” This essay has sparse development, but it still meets the criteria for a “2” because the relevant evidence leads to a comment in two instances.
Sophistication <i>1 point</i>	0/1	This essay simply wasn’t long enough to demonstrate a “consistently vivid and persuasive style.” Complexity is not established due to brevity and lack of development.
Total	2/6	