**The Whipping**

**The old woman across the way  
    is whipping the boy again  
and shouting to the neighborhood  
    her goodness and his wrongs.  
  
Wildly he crashes through elephant ears,  
    pleads in dusty zinnias,  
while she in spite of crippling fat  
    pursues and corners him.  
  
She strikes and strikes the shrilly circling  
    boy till the stick breaks  
in her hand.  His tears are rainy weather  
    to woundlike memories:  
  
My head gripped in bony vise  
    of knees, the writhing struggle  
to wrench free, the blows, the fear  
    worse than blows that hateful  
  
Words could bring, the face that I  
    no longer knew or loved . . .  
Well, it is over now, it is over,  
    and the boy sobs in his room,  
  
And the woman leans muttering against  
    a tree, exhausted, purged—  
avenged in part for lifelong hidings  
    she has had to bear.**

**Robert Hayden**

**Who Hurt You so?**

**Who hurt you so,  
My dear?  
Who, long ago  
When you were very young,  
Did, said, became, was…something that you did not know  
Beauty could ever do, say, be, become?–  
So that your brown eyes filled  
With tears they never, not to this day, have shed…  
Not because one more boy stood hurt by life,  
No: because something deathless had dropped dead–  
An ugly, an indecent thing to do–  
So that you stood and stared, with open mouth in which the tongue  
Froze slowly backward toward its root,  
As if it would not speak again, too badly stung  
By memories thick as wasps about a nest invaded  
To know if or if not you suffered pain.**

**Edna St. Vincent Millay**

“The Whipping”

What scene opens this poem?

<Type answer here.>

What is the importance of the colon (:) at the end of line 12 and the ellipsis (. . . ) at the end of line 18?

<Type answer here.>

“Who Hurt You So?

What does the speaker’s use of “boy” in line 9 tell the reader?

<Type answer here.>

What is the important of the ellipsis (. . . ) in line 5 and the colon (:) in line 10?

<Type answer here.>

Compare the two poems in each of the following areas:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | “The Whipping” | “Who Hurt You So?” |
| **S**ubject | <Type answer here.> | <Type answer here.> |
| **O**ccasion | <Type answer here.> | <Type answer here.> |
| **A**udience | <Type answer here.> | <Type answer here.> |
| **P**urpose | <Type answer here.> | <Type answer here.> |
| **S**peaker | <Type answer here.> | <Type answer here.> |

Using the results of this comparison, make one statement about both poems.

<Type answer here.>