**Poem #2: *Morning in the Burned House* (by: Margaret Atwood)**

**Student:**

1. Discuss the irony of the title.
2. Summarize the poem in 2 sentences.
3. What is the overwhelming mood of the poem?
4. Comment on the structural format of the poem.
5. Why does the author use brackets when she writes, ‘I can almost see” (2nd last stanza)?
6. Identify the theme of the poem.
7. Identify the type of poem.
8. Provide two (2) examples of cacophony.
9. Provide two (2) examples of euphony.

Morning in the Burned House

[Margaret Atwood](https://www.poets.org/node/44635), 1939

In the burned house I am eating breakfast.

You understand: there is no house, there is no breakfast,

yet here I am.

The spoon which was melted scrapes against

the bowl which was melted also.

No one else is around.

Where have they gone to, brother and sister,

mother and father? Off along the shore,

perhaps. Their clothes are still on the hangers,

their dishes piled beside the sink,

which is beside the woodstove

with its grate and sooty kettle,

every detail clear,

tin cup and rippled mirror.

The day is bright and songless,

the lake is blue, the forest watchful.

In the east a bank of cloud

rises up silently like dark bread.

I can see the swirls in the oilcloth,

I can see the flaws in the glass,

those flares where the sun hits them.

I can’t see my own arms and legs

or know if this is a trap or blessing,

finding myself back here, where everything

in this house has long been over,

kettle and mirror, spoon and bowl,

including my own body,

including the body I had then,

including the body I have now

as I sit at this morning table, alone and happy,

bare child’s feet on the scorched floorboards

(I can almost see)

in my burning clothes, the thin green shorts

and grubby yellow T-shirt

holding my cindery, non-existent,

radiant flesh. Incandescent.

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