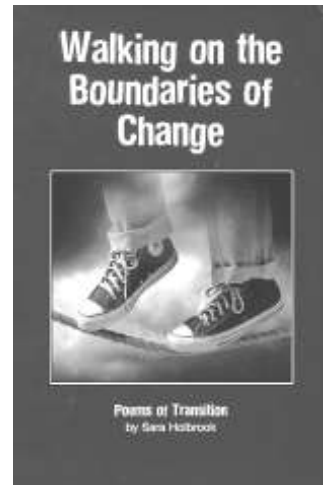


Name: _____ Date: _____

**Selected
Poems from
Sara
Holbrook's**



***Walking on
the
Boundaries
of Change***

Walking on the Boundaries of Change

Day by day
a tightrope,
walking on the boundaries
of change,
One step –
firm, familiar,
the next step –
shaky, strange.

Some friends
will dare danger,
mock or push each step.
Some friends
knock your confidence.

Real friends
form a net.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the title mean?

2. What is the significance of the steps?

3. What are the two things the poem mentions that not real friends will do?

4. What does the speaker mean by “form a net”?

5. What do you see when you envision this poem?

Meant for Fun

It was just for fun –
a game of truth and dare.
No one meant to hurt.
No one meant to get so scared.

A game without a box,
a lid,
a single rule.
No one meant to dare real danger.
No one meant to be so cruel.

A game.
It was just for fun –
truth or dare,
we each could choose.
No one meant it.
Who could know –
that all of us would lose?

QUESTIONS:

1. What was meant for fun?

2. What do you think happened? What is implied?

3. Why does the author constantly repeat “no one”?

4. What does the speaker mean by “without a box, a lid, a single rule”?

5. How did all of them lose?

Ducking Out

A drive-by.
It's a hit-and-run
by hurt.
You need to cry
to bleed your pain.
A little shower now,
just might avoid a
hurricane.
"Whoa!"
You're lightning fast with verbal fists,
your anger stabs and stabs the sir.
"It wasn't me!"
I step aside to duck.
It doesn't mean that I don't care.

I can't answer for the hurt,
and I can't tell you what to do.
I can wrap your wounds with love,
but I won't bleed for you.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is "you"?

2. Who is "I"?

3. What is "I" ducking?

4. What happened right before the poem began?

5. What does the speaker mean by "I won't bleed for you"?

Major Differences

Whenever
your kind sticks together,
my kind feels left out.
When your kind starts to whisper,
my kind starts to shout.

Your kind feels neglected,
my kinds feels aggrieved.
We both feel disrespected,
both feel we've been deceived.

We divide the world in columns
when we stick to our own kind.
We nurture our suspicions,
keep our stereotypes in line.

We have to keep our distance
so we've another kind to blame.
How come,
if we're so different,
we both react the same?

QUESTIONS:

1. Explain “your kind” and “my kind”.

2. What are the differences between the two groups?

3. Does the word “stereotypes” help you understand this poem? Why or why not?

4. Answer the question in the last stanza.

5. Do you feel the same as the speaker? Why or why not?

Homecoming

Look here.

I'm talking football.

And you?

You're talking dance.

I hope we cream the Bears.

You're looking for romance.

I say we give it up.

We're like a mustard/jelly sandwich.

Homecoming?

You kidding?

You don't even speak my language.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who are the "you" and "I" in this poem?

2. What are they having a conversation about?

3. Compare and contrast this poem to "Major Differences". What are the similarities and differences?

4. What does the speaker mean by "you don't even speak my language"?

5. Have you ever had this conversation with someone of the opposite sex? About your differences? Explain.

Getting Told

My mama, she told me, “Be careful.”
The boy, he told me he loved me.
My teacher said, “Don’t be a fool, you stay in school.”
The boy, he told me he loved me.
The TV says, “Practice safe sex.”
The boy, he told me he loved me.
My dad said, I get pregnant, he’s going to kick me out.
The boy, he told me he loved me.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the title mean?

2. What line is repeated and why do you think it is?

3. What do you think is the significance of the lines that are not repeated?

4. Compare this poem to “WRONG”.

5. What would be your advice to the speaker? Before the event that’s implied? After the event?
