

**Analyzing Poetry**  
**The Power of One Choice**

**“That Was Then, This is Now”**  
**by anonymous**

That was then...  
We were best friends  
Laughing, talking, crying, with you.  
You were my peanut butter,  
I was your jelly.

This is now...  
Lonely Saturday nights.  
Arm brushes in the halls.  
The chit-chatty small talk  
Is worse than silence.

This is now...  
We're practically strangers.  
Averting eyes, looking away.  
You look right through me  
And I look away from you.

That was then...  
This is now...  
You hurt me, and I hurt you too.  
But I have to let you go...

That was then...  
Midnight phone calls, sleepovers.  
Movies, parties, even vacations.  
Anywhere you were, I'd be there.  
And the same went for you.

1. Identify a character from S.E. Hinton's novel, *That was Then, This is Now*, that could be the speaker of this poem and support your decision with two examples from the novel. Make sure you include page numbers.

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2. What was a choice that was made in the poem? Support your answer by including the line(s) from the poem that helped you to make your decision.

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3. How does that choice compare with the choice that Bryon had to make in S.E. Hinton's novel, *That was Then, This is Now*? Support your answer with lines from the poem and/or examples from the novel.

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4. Read the poem on the left by Misti L. Green, then rewrite the poem on the right from either Mark or Bryon's perspective.

<p align="center"><b>"Complication"</b> by Misti L. Green</p>	<p align="center"><b>"Complication"</b> by _____</p>
<p>In a world filled with changes each and every day...</p>	<p>In a world filled with changes each and every day...</p>
<p>I feel I'm being judged for what I do 'n say...</p>	<p>I feel I'm being judged for what I do n say...</p>
<p>I remember back to Barbies and play days at the park...</p>	<p>I remember back to _____ and _____.</p>
<p>When I didn't worry about other people's remarks...</p>	<p>When I didn't worry about _____.</p>
<p>Now lookin' in the mirror I see to my surprise...</p>	<p>Now lookin' in the mirror I see to my surprise...</p>
<p>A completely different person staring in my eyes...</p>	<p>A completely different person staring in my eyes...</p>
<p>The care-free little girl I saw at 4 and 5...</p>	<p>The _____</p>
<p>Is now becoming a teen... Just trying to survive...</p>	<p>I saw at _____.</p>
	<p>Is now becoming a _____. Just trying to _____...</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“One Decision”</b> ©2006 Sara Westbrook</p> <p>The day was going along just fine One or two mistakes, but I guess I crossed the line Not thinking too much about the consequence Looking back it doesn't seem to make much sense</p> <p>These are the choices that we make These are the chances that we take</p> <p>Banging my head against the wall Watching all the red bricks start to fall Wondering how it could of played out What's my life all about? What's it all about?</p> <p>Chorus One decision could change your life And you can't take it back, Can't change the past You're just trying to do what's right One decision could change your life No you can't take it back, Can't change the past You're just trying to live your life</p>	<p>I can feel the weight of your glare And this pain and hurt I feel is beyond repair Each day I wake up just trying to breathe From this anguish inside there is no relief</p> <p>So take my body and I'll take the blame Can't live my days with all this pain And everything that happened is such a blur I wish that I could get back to where I was before My head will explode and I'm going insane Nothing makes sense I'm so ashamed How do I get through this? How do I get through this?</p> <p>Chorus</p> <p>So take my body and I'll take the blame Can't live my days with all this pain And everything that happened is such a blur I wish that I could get back to where I was before My head will explode and I'm going insane Nothing makes sense I'm so ashamed How do I get through this? How do I get through this?</p> <p>Chorus</p>
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5. Why do you think the author of this song chose to express her feelings through a song?

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6. How do the song lyrics compare to the previous poems?

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7. Identify a character from S.E. Hinton's novel, *That was Then, This is Now*, that could be the speaker of this poem and support your decision with two examples from the novel. Make sure you include page numbers.

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8. What was a choice that was made in the poem? Support your answer by including the line(s) from the poem that helped you to make your decision.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b>“I Went to a Party Mom”</b></p> <p>I went to a party, and remembered what you said. You told me not to drink, Mom so I had a Sprite instead.</p> <p>I felt proud of myself, the way you said I would, that I didn't drink and drive, though some friends said I should.</p> <p>I made a healthy choice, and your advice to me was right as the party finally ended, and the kids drove out of sight.</p> <p>I got into my car, sure to get home in one piece, I never knew what was coming, Mom something I expected least.</p> <p>Now I'm lying on the pavement, And I hear the policeman say, 'The kid that caused this wreck was drunk' His voice seems far away. Is this right?</p> <p>My own blood's all around me, as I try hard not to cry. I can hear the paramedic say, 'This girl is going to die.'</p>	<p>I'm sure the guy had no idea, while he was flying high, because he chose to drink and drive, now I would have to die.</p> <p>So why do people do it, Mom Knowing that it ruins lives? And now the pain is cutting me, like a hundred stabbing knives.</p> <p>Tell Sister not to be afraid, Mom tell Daddy to be brave, and when I go to heaven, put 'Daddy's Girl' on my grave.</p> <p>Someone should have taught him, that it's wrong to drink and drive. Maybe if his parents had, I'd still be alive.</p> <p>My breath is getting shorter, Mom I'm getting really scared. These are my final moments, and I'm so unprepared.</p> <p>I wish that you could hold me, Mom, as I lie here and die. I wish that I could say I love you, Mom So I love you and good-bye.</p>
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9. What is a poor decision that Bryon made?

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10. What is a poor decision that Mark made?

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11. What are the consequences of making poor decisions? Support your answer with lines from the poem and the novel.

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12. Identify a theme for the novel and explain how it applies to it.

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13. Identify a theme for the poems you just read and explain how it applies to them.

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14. How does the theme for the novel compare to the theme you determined for the poems?

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15. How does the power of one choice apply to the poems that you read? Use lines from at least two of the poems to support your answer.

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