

Student Activity sheet

Listening/Note-taking Activity for J. Ulrich's interview at FavoritePoem.org
<http://www.favoritepoem.org/thevideos/ulrich.html>

We Real Cool

by Gwendolyn Brooks
THE POOL PLAYERS.
SEVEN AT THE GOLDEN
SHOVEL

We real cool. We
Left school. We
Lurk late. We
Strike straight. We
Sing sin. We
Thin gin. We
Jazz June. We
Die soon.



Interview © 2000.

From "The Bean Eaters", by Gwendolyn Brooks,
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A. How Good is Your Memory? - How Well Do You Listen?

First Listening: Listen and watch, then answer these questions:

1. What's the teenager's name?
2. Where is he from?
3. How old is he?
4. Where does he go to school?
5. How did he describe his family?
6. How many members (he means total siblings) are there in his family?
7. How many sisters?
8. How many brothers?
9. How many years are there between each of them (age-wise)?

B. Note-Taking Exercise/Post-Listening Questions

Second Listening: Take notes, then answer the following the questions from your notes.

1. What kind of love does he receive from his family?
2. How old was he in 1997?
3. How many of his friends and neighbors did he say tried to commit suicide?
4. How many succeeded? How old were they?
5. What is the TOTAL number of John's friends and neighbors who died between 1996 and the time of this interview (2000)?
6. What was/is the main cause of death for young people in John's neighborhood?
7. Why does John say his neighborhood is "so desperate"?
8. What saved John from becoming desperate like his friends?
9. What's the name of his group and who helped him to create it?
10. What's the purpose of this group?

11. Where and when did he first hear this poem by Gwendolyn Brooks?
12. How does he relate to this poem?

13. Explain the kind of "change" that John talks about?

14. Does John think he and his friends are (or were) "real cool"?

Some questions adapted from Aiden Yeh ©2003, <http://dcyeh.com/>