**Poetry Analysis**

**My Parents BY STEPHEN SPENDER**

My parents kept me from children who were rough

Who threw words like stones and wore torn clothes

Their thighs showed through rags they ran in the street

And climbed cliffs and stripped by the country streams.

I feared more than tigers their muscles like iron

Their jerking hands and their knees tight on my arms

I feared the salt coarse pointing of those boys

Who copied my lisp behind me on the road.

They were lithe they sprang out behind hedges

Like dogs to bark at my world. They threw mud

While I looked the other way, pretending to smile.

I longed to forgive them but they never smiled.

1. How many stanzas are in this poem? (1)
2. Write a one-sentence summary of each stanza? (8)
3. Metaphors/similes: explain what the metaphor tells us about the idea it’s comparing/representing: (4)
   1. “threw words like stones”
   2. “their muscles like iron”
   3. “salt coarse pointing”
   4. “like dogs to bark at our world”

**The Average by W. H. Auden's,**   
  
His peasant parents killed themselves with toil  
To let their darling leave a stingy soil  
For any of those smart professions which  
Encourage shallow breathing, and grow rich.  
  
The pressure of their fond ambition made  
Their shy and country-loving child afraid  
No sensible career was good enough,  
Only a hero could deserve such love.  
  
So here he was without maps or supplies,  
A hundred miles from any decent town;  
The desert glared into his blood-shot eyes;  
  
The silence roared displeasure: looking down,  
He saw the shadow of an Average Man  
Attempting the Exceptionl, and ran.

1. How many stanzas are in this poem? (1)

1. Write a one-sentence summary of each stanza? (8)
2. Explain what you think the following lines from the poem mean: (5)
   1. “professions which / encourage shallow breathing”
   2. “only a hero could deserve such love”
   3. “So here he was without maps or supplies”
   4. “the desert glared into his blood-shot eyes”
   5. “The silence roared displeasure”
3. What is your opinion of these parents? Explain. (2)