

A room after music

Poetry | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

The final note has left the air;
The chairs stand crooked in a row.
A scarf lies folded on a chair,
Where one small lamp still makes a glow.

The drummer shuts a battered case;
The singer rolls her music tight.
Their voices filled this narrow place,
Then slipped away into the night.

I stack the cups beside the sink
And close the window on the rain.
The quiet gives me time to think
Of words I hope to hear again.

No song remains upon the floor,
No chorus hangs against the wall.
Yet when I reach to lock the door,
I pause, remembering them all.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. What does the drummer shut?

- A. The window
- B. The door
- C. A music book
- D. A battered case

2. What does the speaker stack?

- A. Chairs against the wall
- B. Scarves by the door
- C. Music cases beneath the lamp
- D. Cups beside the sink

3. What does “battered” suggest about the case?

- A. It is newly painted
- B. It is completely empty
- C. It is much too small
- D. It is worn from use

4. Why does the speaker hope to hear the words again?

- A. The singer has asked for the window to be shut
- B. The speaker values the music and the evening
- C. The speaker did not hear any singing
- D. The words are written on the cups

5. What is the effect of saying no chorus hangs against the wall?

- A. It contrasts an empty room with a lasting memory
- B. It explains where the music sheets were stored
- C. It shows that a wall decoration fell down
- D. It claims sound can be kept on a hook

6. Which idea best describes the poem?

- A. A room must be cleaned before any music begins
- B. The speaker wishes the musicians had never visited
- C. Music can only be enjoyed in a large hall
- D. An experience can remain in memory after a place becomes quiet

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. D. A battered case

The second stanza says the drummer shuts a battered case.

2. D. Cups beside the sink

The third stanza describes stacking cups beside the sink.

3. D. It is worn from use

Battered describes an object that is worn or marked, suggesting use over time.

4. B. The speaker values the music and the evening

The wish to hear them again and the final memories suggest the evening mattered to the speaker.

5. A. It contrasts an empty room with a lasting memory

The song leaves no physical object behind, yet the speaker still remembers it.

6. D. An experience can remain in memory after a place becomes quiet

The poem moves from clearing a quiet room to remembering the people and music.

Original passage written for Trace Learn. Authored 2026-09-30. These teaching questions are not a school entrance paper.