

Name:

Poets Bear Witness

Part 2

Thinking of Emmett Till

by Reuben Jackson

stars winked
above the diner
where I asked
a blonde waitress
for sugar,

and got
threatened by
a local

with
a bloodthirsty
smile.

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Poets Bear Witness Part 2, continued

For Trayvon Martin

by Reuben Jackson

Instead of sleeping—
I walk with him from the store.
No Skittles, thank you.
We do not talk much—
Sneakers crossing the courtyard.
Humid Southern night.
We shake hands and hug—
Ancient, stoic tenderness.
I nod to the moon.
I'm so old school—
I hang till the latch clicks like.
An unloaded gun.

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Poets Bear Witness Part 2, continued



With your partner, review what happened to Trayvon Martin. Look back at fluency passage 1 if necessary. Summarize what happened using the 5 Ws.

WHO is this about? _____

WHAT did he/she do? _____

WHEN did this happen? _____

WHERE did this happen? _____

WHY did this happen?



Now silently re-read the poem "For Trayvon Martin."



Turn and talk with your partner: What does the speaker imagine himself doing?

How would things have been different for Trayvon Martin if the speaker had walked him home from the store that night?



Underline the images and sensory details in the poem.

What feelings are expressed by these details?
