

Hanging Fire & Teenagers

How can one subject be presented
through two different points of view?

Hanging Fire

Determine Theme:

- The **theme** if a poem is a message about life or human nature that the writer wants to convey; you make **inferences** about the theme from the title as well as from the statements and images in the poem.
- What do you think the title in this poem means? The phrase “hang fire” means to delay or be delayed in taking action, so what does that suggest about the theme of the poem?

Hanging Fire

- Making Inferences: the **speaker** in a poem is the voice that talks to the readers; it's similar to the narrator of a story. From the evidence in the poem, you can make inferences about the speaker. The speaker is not necessarily the author.
 - The speaker is overly dramatic and sees herself as persecuted and misunderstood.
 - "Nobody ever stops to think/about my side of it"; why do I have to be/the one/wearing braces"; "I have nothing to wear tomorrow"
- Determining Theme:
 - Keep in mind the image of a closed door... What does this image suggest about a theme?

Teenagers

- Determining Theme: In line 3, the image of the closed door comes back. What does this image suggest about a similar theme to "Hanging Fire"?
- Determining Meaning of Words and Phrases: a **simile** is a comparison between two things using *like* or *as*.
 - Lines 9-11 contain a simile; what is it and what does it mean?
 - Simile in lines 11-15.
 - What effect do the similes have on the last stanza of the poem?

Performance Task

- Writing Activity:
Comparison
 - Compare and contrast the two poems; create a Venn diagram that shows the similarities and differences between the poems' speakers, themes, and points of view.

