Those Winter Sundays

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| Those Winter Sundays |  |
| by [Robert Hayden](http://www.poets.org/poet.php/prmPID/196) | |
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| Sundays too my father got up early  and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,  then with cracked hands that ached  from labor in the weekday weather made  banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.  I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.  When the rooms were warm, he'd call,  and slowly I would rise and dress,  fearing the chronic angers of that house,  Speaking indifferently to him,  who had driven out the cold  and polished my good shoes as well.  What did I know, what did I know  of love's austere and lonely offices? |  |

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| **vocab** | **Those Winter Sundays by Robert Hayden** | **Questions** |
| Bank: to give a fire fresh fuel so it will continue to burn  Chronic: something that’s chronic goes on for a long time.  Indifferent: not caring one way or another; having no strong feelings for or against something  Austere:   1. Plain; not decorated 2. Serious, strict and severe 3. Having no comforts or luxuries.   Office: a position someone has that comes with certain duties and responsibilities. | Sundays too my father got up early  and put his clothes on in the blueblack cold,  then with cracked hands that ached  from labor in the weekday weather made  banked fires blaze. No one ever thanked him.  I'd wake and hear the cold splintering, breaking.  When the rooms were warm, he'd call,  and slowly I would rise and dress,  fearing the chronic angers of that house,  Speaking indifferently to him,  who had driven out the cold  and polished my good shoes as well.  What did I know, what did I know  of love's austere and lonely offices? | What words help you to imagine the setting? What mood do these words create?  What do we know about the speaker’s father from the first stanza?  How many sentences are in the first stanza? What do you notice about the lengths of the sentences? What does it leave you thinking?  How could the someone “hear the cold splintering, breaking”? How could cold splinter and break?  What could the “chronic angers of that house” be?  Why might the speaker be rising and dressing slowly?  Who is the speaker “speaking indifferently” to? Why is the speaker indifferent?  Now that you’ve read all three stanzas, look back at all three and list everything the father did that might deserve thanks.    Think back to the last sentence of the first stanza. Why do you think no one thanked the father for all of these acts?  What are love’s offices? Why might they be austere and lonely? Which definition of “austere” fits best?  What is the speaker’s tone towards the father? What words and phrases create that tone?  What is the speaker realizing at the end of the poem? |

Journal entry: What might the theme of this poem be? What theme does this poem share with “All the Years of Her Life”? Compare and contrast how the authors communicate these themes.

Theme both share\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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|  | **How theme is expressed in “Those Winter Sundays”** | **How theme is expressed in “All the Years of Her Life”** |
| **Speaker/main character**  **What does the parent do for the speaker/main character?**  **How does the speaker/main character treat the parent? (Include evidence from text.)**  **What does the speaker/main character realize about the parent?**  **(Include evidence from text.)**  **When does the speaker/main character come to this realization?**  **What lesson does the main character/speaker learn?** |  |  |