

Reflection Questions

After you've read all three poems, choose one poem and answer the following questions. There are no wrong answers; these questions are just meant to get you thinking more deeply about Reginald Dwayne Betts' writing.

Title of Poem: _____

1. A poem often has a *what* and a *so-what*: The *what* is the event, such as the narrator in “I’m Learning Nothing This Night” reading a magazine. The *so-what* is the reason why that event matters to the reader—the deeper, universal message of the poem. **What do you think the *so-what* of your chosen poem is?**
2. Look back at the words and phrases that you took note of. Why did they stand out to you? What stuck out to you? **How did these words and phrases support the overall meaning and tone (vibe) of the poem?**
3. **How would the story of these moments read differently if they weren’t poems?** For example, if “Prison” were an essay, what do you think would be lost or gained?

Documenting Moments

For 2–4 days, document the moments in your day-to-day life that get you thinking and wondering. In the chart, write a summary of each moment and what you were thinking and feeling.

Date	Summary	Thoughts and Feelings