**Speed Dating Questions on poetry and on “We Real Cool”**

1. What comes to mind when you think of the word “Poetry”?
2. What was one of your earliest encounters or experiences with a poem? Was it in grade school? Later? What do you remember about it?
3. If you had to explain to a class of young kids what a poem is, what would you say?

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1. Take another look at “We Real Cool” by Gwendolyn Brooks, and answer this question: Who do you think is speaking in this poem? How old do you think they are?
2. What do you imagine the speakers look like? What are they wearing?
3. What might it mean to “thin gin”? What might it mean to “sing sin”?
4. How do you feel about the kids in this poem? Would you want to hang out with them? Why?
5. Do you think this poem is criticizing people like this? Or is it sympathetic to them?
6. What is your theory on why Brooks put the word “We” at the end of almost every line?

THE POOL PLAYERS.

*SEVEN AT THE GOLDEN SHOVEL*.

We real cool. We

Left school. We

Lurk late. We

Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We

Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We

Die soon.

--Gwendolyn Brooks