

Questions for "Welcome to Hiroshima"

- 1) Why does Salter use her poem's title to start its first sentence?
- 2) Does this poem make you feel welcome to Hiroshima? Why, or why not?
- 3) What purpose does the image of a "columnful like beer" (line 5) serve? Why does the poem mention beer?
- 4) Why does the poem liken the brain to a TV in line 4?
- 5) Why does the poem give us the name of the company in the third line: "Toshiba Electric?" What would be lost if it just said, "by an electric company"?
- 6) What is ironic about the phrase "a thirst for history" (8)? Is this a pleasant metaphor?
- 7) What does the poem mean by "mutations of cuisine" (15)? Is this phrase ironic?
- 8) Why does the speaker mention "a pizza someone tops // with a maraschino cherry" (16-17)?
- 9) Why does the speaker use the words, "mistaken cheer" (19) to characterize the floral hypocenter? Do you agree that the cheer is mistaken?
- 10) What does the speaker mean when she says that "humanity erased its own erasure" in line 20?
- 11) What purpose does the image of "coatsleeves" serve in line 24?
- 12) What purpose do the italicized words serve in the seventh stanza? Does the word, "reverence" aptly characterize the tone of this poem?
- 13) What does the speaker mean when she states that "re-created / horror mocks the grim original" (28-29)?
- 14) In line 31, the speaker italicizes "[t]hey should have left it all." Do you think they should have left it all? Is the city's response to the atomic bomb appropriate?
- 15) In line 32, a sentence ends with "you stop." What meaning does the poem ultimately attach to the word, "stop"?
- 16) What message does the child's wristwatch of line 32 communicate?
- 17) What role does glass play in this poem? What does the speaker suggest when she states that "an exhibit under glass is glass itself" (40-41)?
- 18) Why does the speaker in the poem figuring the glass shard as a tongue?
- 19) Why kind of memorial is this poem?
- 20) This poem makes no direct statement about the use of the atomic bomb. Based on evidence gathered from the poem, what does the speaker indirectly say about it?