

Questions 1 to 8 are based on this poem.

My Father Carried a Black Lunch Bucket

Even now, a half-century past and more,
my father at rest four decades now,
sometimes I still see him, striding
down that Vancouver sidewalk,
5 lunch bucket swinging in one hand,
the other a counterbalance,
his long stride in my five year-old eyes
that of a mythic hero come home
to me each day; and when I waved
10 excited recognition as he touched
the far end of my vision,
after he'd stepped down
from the streetcar that bore him
home from the shipyards where
15 he worked he'd pace up East Broadway,
growing immense until he loomed
before me and set down
the metal bucket, his name
nail-etched with pride
20 in the black enamel, snatch me up
and crush me to him with his love,
his voice mouthing my name,
his huge arms holding me,
a thrill enough to make me wait
25 each workday eve at the front walk
for my first glimpse.
Even now, each time I see him,
no matter when, my father
still swings his black lunch bucket.

—Glen Sorestad
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Read the poem **My Father Carried a Black Lunch Bucket**. Answer questions 1 to 8.

Multiple Choice (Select the best or most correct answer.)

1. How does the boy feel about his father's coming home?
 - a enthusiastic
 - b impatient
 - c relieved
 - d sentimental

2. Re-read lines 20–23. Which of the following best explains what we learn about the father from this passage?
 - a He is affectionate.
 - b He is impulsive.
 - c He is powerful.
 - d He is protective.

3. The boy sees his father as
 - a a famous person
 - b an adventurous person
 - c an aggressive person
 - d an extraordinary person

4. Why does the speaker have a lasting image of his father swinging a black lunch bucket (lines 27–29)?
 - a Because this is a memory of the last time he saw his father alive.
 - b Because this is a reflection of his father's true character.
 - c Because this is an early impression of his father.
 - d Because this is the way he most often saw his father.

8. Re-read lines 18–20 and explain the meaning of “nail-etched.”

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Short Answer (Write your responses to the following questions on the lines provided.)

5. About how many years have passed since the speaker was a five-year-old child?

about 50 years/about half a century

6. Explain in your own words the meaning of “his long stride” in line 7.

He takes big steps/ walks with long steps.

7. Explain in your own words the meaning of “touched/the far end of my vision” (lines 10–11).

Answers must show an understanding that the father came into view.

8. Re-read lines 18–20 and explain the meaning of “nail-etched.”

Scatched/engraved/drawn with a nail.