****

**Rhetorical Questions in ‘Quiet Kid’**

In the first half of the poem ‘Quiet Kid’, the boy expresses himself to the reader through a series of seven rhetorical questions.

On this sheet, the seven questions are listed in column 1. In column 2, write one possible fear or feeling that the boy might be showing with his rhetorical questions.

Have you noticed that in the second half of the poem, the boy stops using rhetorical questions? This is probably because the poet feels that by this point you have been shown enough about the boy to **empathise** with him.

Therefore, he can tell the rest of his story (at least, as much of it as he’s willing to share with you) in more straightforward language, safe in the knowledge you have some understanding of what he’s going through.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rhetorical Question | What The Boy **Might** Be Telling Us |
| How can I put my hand up  When my answer might be wrong | People will say I’m stupid and I’m already being called other names. |
| When I’m afraid to speak  How can I ever sing a song |  |
| How can I think of shouting  When a whisper’s too much noise |  |
| Why would I chat to girls  When I’m not like other boys |  |
| How can I show my feelings  Let the world know that I’m mad |  |
| How can I bother Mom  When she’s being Mom and Dad |  |
| How can I show I’m scared  When weakness hides in fears |  |