There are no stars to-night
But those of memory.
Yet how much room for memory there is
In the loose girdle* of soft rain.
There is even room enough
For the letters of my mother's mother,
Elizabeth,
That have been pressed so long
Into a corner of the roof
That they are brown and soft,
And liable to melt as snow.

Over the greatness of such space
Steps must be gentle.
It is all hung by an invisible white hair.
It trembles as birch limbs webbing the air.

And I ask myself:
Are your fingers long enough to play
Old keys that are but echoes:
Is the silence strong enough
To carry back the music to its source
And back to you again
As though to her?

Yet I would lead my grandmother by the hand
Through much of what she would not understand:
And so I stumble. And the rain continues on the roof
With such a sound of gently pitying laughter.

Anastrophe: The inversion of the usual order of words.

Enjambment: The running on of the thought from one line, couplet, or stanza to the next without a syntactical break/punctuated pause.
**What is the poem about?**

**What is the subject of the poem?**
- This poem tells of a failure to connect with the past, or of a failure to hold on to a person.

**Who is speaking?**
- 1st person narrative “I”

**What is the location/setting of the poem?**
- 

**Themes and messages of the poem:**
- 

**Attitudes and feelings in the poem:**

**Tone of the poem:**
- Nostalgic, delicate, conversational, honest and even sentimental.

**Form and structure of the poem (rhyme, rhythm, line length, stanza length, etc.):**
- Vree verse - lyrical poem.
- Consists of six stanzas, three of which are fairly traditional quatrains. Varies in line length.
- Rhyming couplets: “hair” and “air” (lines 14-15) & “hand” and “understand”.
- Stanza 4 & 5 are in a rhetorical question form.
- Conversational – informal language.

**Type of poem:**
- Vree verse – lyrical poem.

**Poetic devices (e.g. metaphors, similes, enjambment, alliteration, personification, etc.):**
- Explained in the poem above.

**Personal response to the poem (how do I feel, what impact does the poem have on me)?**
- YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSE!