**Transforming Moments**

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Questions

1. In the opening paragraph the narrator describes her hair as “dry grass in winter”.
2. What did the narrator do instead of going to the sports fields?
3. Do you think this activity contributed to her growth?
4. Compare the opening paragraph with the last two paragraphs in order to show how much the narrator has changed.
5. What does the cock at the end of the story symbolize?

Refer to the line: “Some girls were forced to be my part-time friends.” Explain what this means.

1. Refer to the line: “He had chosen an unsuitable girl and has set the whole school on fire.” Identify the TWO figures of speech used in the line and comment on the effectiveness of each.
2. Why did the narrator think the good-looking boy was crazy?
3. Is the narrator justified in wishing to be like Mrs Fikeni?
4. Refer to the line: “I felt very much at home.” What does this tell us about the treatment that the narrator receives from the Fikeni family?
5. How did the narrator benefit from attending the meeting at the village?
6. Shaking the praise-poet’s hand felt like a baptismal to the narrator. Why do you think made her feel like being baptised?
7. Explain the relevance of the title by using examples from the story.
8. In the first paragraph the writer says that she was very unsure of herself. Quote four examples from this paragraph to prove this statement.
9. The school choir simply collected trophies. What does this imply about the choir?
10. “I was forever buried in my books”. Identify the figure of speech used here and explain what it means.
11. Did the narrator have people she trusted who supported her? Explain your answer.
12. Mention three things the girls did to bully her.
13. Why did the girl decide to accept the boy’s friendship.
14. “The winter sun seemed as lazy as we were.” Name the figure of speech.
15. What is a praise poet?
16. Discuss how the outing to meet the praise poet changed her entire life.
17. What is the setting of this story?
18. Explain why it may be said that the setting and character of the story makes it a universal story.
19. In spite of being teased by girls in her class, she helps them with work in the dormitory at night. What does this tell the reader about her character?
20. The praise poet makes a great impression on the girl. Why is she impressed by him?
21. What was unusual about her deciding to become a praise poet?
22. Which stereotype is challenged in this story? Motivate your answer.
23. Which transforming moment may be regarded as the most important and why?
24. What tone of voice do you think the narrator uses in the first part of the story. Does it reflect her opinion of herself?