Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date/Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Abandoned Farmhouse**

BY [TED KOOSER](https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/ted-kooser)

He was a big man, says the size of his shoes

on a pile of broken dishes by the house;

a tall man too, says the length of the bed

in an upstairs room; and a good, God-fearing man,

says the Bible with a broken back

on the floor below the window, dusty with sun;

but not a man for farming, say the fields

cluttered with boulders and the leaky barn.

A woman lived with him, says the bedroom wall

papered with lilacs and the kitchen shelves

covered with oilcloth, and they had a child,

says the sandbox made from a tractor tire.

Money was scarce, say the jars of plum preserves

and canned tomatoes sealed in the cellar hole.

And the winters cold, say the rags in the window frames.

It was lonely here, says the narrow country road.

Something went wrong, says the empty house

in the weed-choked yard. Stones in the fields

say he was not a farmer; the still-sealed jars

in the cellar say she left in a nervous haste.

And the child? Its toys are strewn in the yard

like branches after a storm—a rubber cow,

a rusty tractor with a broken plow,

a doll in overalls. Something went wrong, they say.

1. Identify the speaker of the poem.
2. What is happening in this poem/what is it about?
3. What is the mood of this poem? (mood is how the reader feels while reading)
4. Which specific words or phrases in the poem contributed to the mood?
5. Notice repeated words throughout the poem. Why might the author choose to repeat certain words?
6. How do specific details, such as “the length of the bed” help us picture the man?
7. Identify the focus of each individual stanza of the poem.
8. Identify the literary devices present in the poem. Use evidence.
9. Which emotions might the characters in this poem be feeling? What evidence in the poem caused you to think this?
10. What is a possible theme of this poem? Explain how/why you arrived at this conclusion and support with evidence.