

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

## We Real Cool

By Gwendolyn Brooks  
1960

*Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000) was an American poet, author, and teacher. On May 1, 1950, she became the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry. In this poem, Brooks describes seeing a group of men in a pool hall and portrays them as not caring about responsibilities. As you read, take note of how Brooks's form contributes to the development of the theme of the poem.*

[1] THE POOL PLAYERS.

SEVEN AT THE GOLDEN SHOVEL.

We real cool. We  
Left school. We

[5] Lurk late. We  
Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We  
Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We  
[10] Die soon.



["Not exactly playing games"](#) by Johnny Silvercloud is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0

*"We Real Cool" from The Bean Eaters by Gwendolyn Brooks, published by Harpers. © 1960 by Gwendolyn Brooks. Used by permission of Brooks Permissions. All rights reserved.*