

**Questions on To a Daughter Leaving Home by Linda Pastan:**

1. What sorts of thoughts and feelings are expressed in the lines “you grew / smaller, more breakable / with distance” (15-17). What do these lines mean?
2. This poem is titled “To a Daughter Leaving Home,” but it is apparently about a mother teaching her daughter how to ride a bike. What sort of metaphors and imagery relate the title to the overt subject matter of the poem? How are these elements related, particularly in Pastan’s treatment of them?
3. The final line of the poem is the only line that has just one word: “Good-bye” (24). While this is obviously fitting, given the context, what other lines display a unity between their matter and form, diction, length, punctuation, etc.?
4. How do the particular elements of place influence this poem? What is its location? How does the environment reflect the sentiment in the poem?