

Questions on We Real Cool by Gwendolyn Brooks:

1. How does the rhythm of the poem contribute to the characterization of the speaker(s)?
2. What does it mean to “[s]trike straight”? To “[t]hin gin”? To “[j]azz June”? How do these phrases help characterize the speaker(s)?
3. Are the speaker’s idea of what is “cool” and the poet’s idea of what is “cool” the same? (Are the poet’s perspective and the speaker’s perspective the same?) Does Gwendolyn Brooks’s discussion of what she was doing in that poem confirm your impression, or is it surprising in some way?