

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION  
Question 1

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts as one-third of the total essay sections score.)

**Directions**

Read Theodore Roethke’s “My Papa’s Waltz” carefully, paying attention to description. Then write a well-organized essay in which you establish a how tone, imagery, and title contribute to determining literal meaning and overall message. Do not merely summarize.

<i>line</i>	My Papa’s Waltz
	The whiskey on your breath Could make a small boy dizzy; But I hung on like death: Such waltzing was not easy.
5	We romped until the pans Slid from the kitchen shelf; My mother’s countenance Could not unfrown itself.
10	The hand that held my wrist Was battered on one knuckle; At every step you missed My right ear scraped a buckle.
15	You beat time on my head With a palm caked hard by dirt, Then waltzed me off to bed Still clinging to your shirt.