

“We Real Cool” by Gwendolyn Brooks

THE POOL PLAYERS.

SEVEN AT THE GOLDEN SHOVEL.

We real cool. We
Left school. We

Lurk late. We
Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We
Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We
Die soon.

Kelly Gardner 9/20/10 11:03 AM

Comment: Repetition: Brooks repeats the word “we” at the end of each line, except the last.

Kelly Gardner 9/20/10 11:17 AM

Comment: Alliteration: repetition of the “s” sound. This device is seen again in “lurk late”, “sing sin”, and “Jazz June”.

Kelly Gardner 9/20/10 11:09 AM

Comment: A foreshadowing of their death

- You can gain a better understanding of this poem by listening the author’s explanation and reading of it.
- <http://www.poets.org/viewmedia.php/prmMID/15433>
- The words in blue are symbolic:
 - Seven – generally thought of as a “lucky” number, it implies that the boys might be lucky
 - Golden – a color reference that might imply luck or prosperity
 - Shovel – this is a reference to death, and can be connected to the last line of the poem. (Shovels can be used in burial.)

* Overall, this poem is about a group of seven boys who skipped school to play pool. They feel as if nothing can get to them, but realize their ultimate ending will be death.