This poem describes a common experience of family life. Read the poem and answer the questions that follow.

**Teenagers**  
*by Pat Mora*

One day they disappear  
into their rooms.  
Doors and lips shut  
and we become strangers  
in our own home.

I pace the hall, hear whispers,  
a code I knew but can't remember,  
mouthed by mouths I taught to speak.

Years later the door opens.  
I see faces I once held,  
open as sunflowers in my hands. I see  
familiar skin now stretched on long bodies  
that move past me  
glowing almost like pearls.

“Teenagers” by Pat Mora reprinted with Permission from the publisher of *My Own True Name: New and Selected Poems for Young Adults* (Houston: Arte Publico Press—University of Houston, 2000).

1. What issue does the poem *mainly* describe?
   A. communication  
   B. happiness  
   C. freedom  
   D. responsibility

2. From whose point of view is this poem written?
   A. a teenager talking about friends  
   B. a parent talking about children  
   C. a person talking about strangers  
   D. a teacher talking about students
3. How does the speaker most likely feel in the second stanza?

A angry
B disappointed
C left out
D nervous

End of Set
## Answers to
Grade 8 Reading Comprehension Sample Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passage Title</th>
<th>Question Number</th>
<th>Correct Answer</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Thinking Skill</th>
<th>Objective Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teenagers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Cognition</td>
<td>Analyzing</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenagers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>Cognition</td>
<td>Analyzing</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teenagers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
<td>Generating</td>
<td>5.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>