‘Still I Rise’

1) Who do you think the narrator is ‘speaking to’ in the first seven stanzas?

2) Find three negative words from stanzas one and two:

3) Who is associated with the negative words?

4) What is meant by ‘sassiness’ and why should it upset her listener?

5) Find two images in stanzas two, five or seven that show the poet as positive and confident. Explain your choices:

6) In your own words, how does the poet think she could be ‘attacked’ in stanza six and how will she respond to those attacks?

7) The narrator asks seven rhetorical questions (questions that aren’t expecting an answer) – find them, then explain them in your own words using a table like the one below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotation – question</th>
<th>My explanation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

8) The first seven stanzas have a regular rhyme scheme but the structure changes in the final two stanzas. Why do you think this is?

9) In the last two stanzas, find three phrases which suggest the horrors of slavery.

10) How do we know that the narrator has hope for the future?

11) How does the form of the poem support the title? Think about how it looks on the page.