

Student Comments on Li-Young Lee's "Mnemonic"

End of First Stanza

This seems to be a long-term memory because the speaker wants it to stay with him. It would be in the hippocampus. (Alex)

End of Second Stanza

I think this memory was triggered by the blue sweater because he says "this one" like he's wearing it while he's thinking. If that's true, then this memory is in the prefrontal cortex. Working memory takes things that have been stored in the brain, probably in the hippocampus, and brings them up when one of the senses causes them to be triggered. (Veronica)

Third Stanza, ending at the words "a man who forgot nothing"

The father used mnemonic devices to help him remember things. Mnemonic devices help working memory in the prefrontal cortex. They store information in the working memory until it's ready to become a long-term memory and go to the hippocampus. (Charlie)

Third Stanza, ending at the words "uncatalogued, illogical"

I think this is describing the hippocampus because long-term memories are the most disorganized. The Web site we looked at talked about how people usually remember things wrong, especially when they happened a long time ago. The speaker is trying to remember his father, but he can only remember pieces of him. (Robin)

End of Third Stanza

This would have to be a long-term memory in the hippocampus because the speaker's father is dead and can't spank him anymore. Plus, I think the speaker is an adult because he's talking about his father in past tense. (Isa)