Poetry Lesson

If I Lived in That House

If I lived in that house
A father would read to his daughter
A man would throw a ball to a boy
A woman would softly kiss a child
A family would sit and eat a meal
A knock would go unanswered
A girl would cry in her small room
A boy would stand alone, staring down a hallway
A shiny faucet would drip into a white sink
A bare light would cast a yellow beam onto a porch
A dark silence would fill the black winter night
A rainstorm would blur an open field

And a man would not think too hard

-- Joseph McGeshick

Today, we will write a poem that:
- imagines a house where we do not live with our five senses
- incorporates people, animals, objects and the natural world
A. Brainstorm the **people/animals** you will include and the **action** (verb) they will be doing. Try to include the five senses. 
*Examples: Two sisters – singing; A cat – chasing.*

B. Brainstorm **objects** that might be inside of the house in the picture and describe them in some way. Again, remember your five senses.
*Examples: a creaky rocking chair; a blue bucket.*

C. Brainstorm natural elements that might surround the house.
*Examples: A light breeze; the smell of wildfire.*

**INSTRUCTIONS for your poem**

1. Your **first line**: *If I lived in that house.* Each **following line**: A________.

2. Use the page creatively

3. Write in the conditional.  
   *Ex: The trees **would** sway through the window; A brother **would** stomp the floor*

4. Bring yourself in at the end.  
   *Ex: And a student would take a picture; And a young man would never forget*