Learning English Through Verse - A poem a day keeps the mind at play

Assignment: Find words or expressions in the poem that correspond to the categories below. Indicate the syllable to be stressed when there are more than one.

Main verbs:
To be (present): Who am I, the sky is blue, the lakes are pure and clear, for this is a country where the people are free, the smiles on their faces is a joy to see, where my long story ends, you’re young
To be (past): When I was a child, we were always worried and always afraid
To have: What you have you must share
To have to: We had to build courage and decide we should flee
To want: I want you to be quiet, and nothing demand, I just want you to speak correctly
To expect/like: I expect you to listen, I’d like you to focus
Other verbs: ask, sit, wait, explain, tell a tale (story), recall, choose, learn, lose, echo, give, eat come, smell, see, hail, plan, find, share, spare, miss, demand, understand, greet, show, mock (=make fun of), quench (=to satisfy), play the piano, please, show
Simple present: you sit there and wait, I choose, I come from a country where the flowers smell sweet, where farmers give people fine crops they can eat, where the sky is blue, the lakes are pure and clear, the neighbors they hail you, for this is a country where the people are free, your time and your money plus all you can spare, the smiles on their faces is a joy to see, but that is not where my own story ends, I daresay, I trust, if ever you’re stuck, I know, the skills, you learn
Simple present (negative): it isn’t so easy, you aren’t alone, I don’t ask you to know
Present continuous: everyone’s trying to come, I’m talking to you, I’m telling you this
Present Prefect: I’ve been through hardships, I have had pain, I have felt anguish
Present Prefect (negative): I haven’t felt sorrow
Simple past: when I was a child, we were poor, with no home, we lived in a clan, what we liked, they forbade, We had to build courage, we traveled, we reached, my parents there settled, worked hard all their life, they found me a wife, they wanted for me, I studied at high school, made some good friends, my own story ends, I learned a profession, then found work I could do, (I) became a carpenter’s aid, so I earned my living, we had food, my wife she was pleased, kids got along, I saw how they grew, became tall and so strong, they studied Chinese, they played the piano, their parents did please, they went onto college, got prestigious degrees

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Future: you’ll forever recall, people will greet you, acts of friendship they’ll show, those that will make you, the man you’ll become

Future (negative): you never will lose, no one will mock you, we won’t give you a test, you will never regret, you’ll never forget

Simple present and present continuous in questions:
Who am I? How are you today? Are you happy, contented? Are you planning to stay? So isn’t this poem worth trying to learn?

Present perfect in questions: Have I suffered a lot? Have I shed real tears?

Future in questions: Won’t you make an attempt?

Passive voice: I was sent to school, you’ll be welcomed by people

Imperative: just do your best

Modals (Defective verbs-can, could, must, may):
can, must, we couldn’t do, could make ends meet, their thirst for knowledge they never could quench, may you find good fortune

Conditional: we’d feel

Pluperfect: they hadn’t achieved, they hadn’t received

Make & Do: made some good friends, just do your best, the effort you make

Would (to express a habit in the past): I would saw, polish and glue, our neighbors we’d greet (we would greet)

Gerunds respecting word order, stress and all rhymes, reciting complex lexis is not our concern

Postpositions: find out, the kids got along

“If” clauses: If you learn by heart just half of these lines,
Expressions: make ends meet, every day, without fail, once again, in sight, far into the night, learn by heart, half of these lines, wherever you go, so isn’t this poem worth trying to learn, I daresay, as much as, find good fortune

Adjectives: every, blue, pure, clear, happy, contented, easy, alone, poor, free, worried, afraid, high, good, single, quiet, complex, right

Adverbs: forever, once again, smell sweet, worked hard, always, patiently, well, I suffered a lot