Instructions
Read the following poem carefully and make notes in the margin as you read.
Your notes may include:
- Comments that show you understand the poem and your reactions to it.
- Questions you have that show what you are wondering as you read.
- Notes and observations on the literary elements (theme, character, plot, setting, narrator, characterization, tone, mood, etc.) and how the author uses them to create an impact.
- Notes and observations on the literary devices (figurative language, imagery, point of view, foreshadowing, flashback, symbolism, etc.) and how the author uses them to create an impact in the poem.

Margin notes are optional, but they may add to your score for this assessment.

Student

Teacher ________________________________ Class Period

Created by: Stacey Figgins, Parkrose

Ode to Abuela*
Alex Graham, University of Portland Literary Magazine, 2010

The film of masa*
Stains her fingers
With the years
Of feeding welcoming mouths.
Her voice wraps around
My fears
As she whispers
Te quiero mija*
She looks like
An angel.
When she laughs
I trace the lines
That form around
Her eyes
And hope someday
That I’ll be as beautiful.
She savors the
Taste of strawberries.

*Abuela = grandmother
*Masa = dough
*Te quiero mija = I love you, daughter

Notes on my thoughts, reactions, and questions as I read:
The sweet pieces of fruit
Look like red gems
Between her fingers
As she eats them
One by one.
She smells of love and life
But the faint scent
Of tamales lingers
Forever.

Demonstrate Understanding
1. Write a summary of the poem using your own words.

Demonstrate Understanding
2. The author uses many sensory details in the poem. Find and list one example of each specific type of sensory detail listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Sensory Detail</th>
<th>Example from the Text</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sense of Sight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of Smell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of Taste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of Hearing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Develop an Interpretation
3. How does the author, or speaker, feel about her abuela (grandmother)? Use evidence from the poem to support your answer.

Develop an Interpretation
4. Why do you think there are so many lines referring to food in the poem?
Analyze Text
5. The author writes, “Her voice wraps around / My fears / As she whispers / Te quiero mija.”
Please answer the questions below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What literary device is being used in that line?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What effect does this line have on the reader?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why did the author choose to use this literary device?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Analyze Text
6. Why do you think the author chooses to end the poem with the word, “Forever.”? Back up your answer with details from the poem.