

## Oranges

By: Gary Soto

The first time I walked  
With a girl, I was twelve,  
Cold, and weighted down  
With two oranges in my jacket.  
December. Frost cracking  
Beneath my steps, my breath  
Before me, then gone,  
As I walked toward  
Her house, the one whose  
Porch light burned yellow  
Night and day, in any weather.  
A dog barked at me, until  
She came out pulling  
At her gloves, face bright  
With rouge. I smiled,  
Touched her shoulder, and led  
Her down the street, across  
A used car lot and a line  
Of newly planted trees,  
Until we were breathing  
Before a drugstore. We  
Entered, the tiny bell  
Bringing a saleslady  
Down a narrow aisle of goods.  
I turned to the candies  
Tiered like bleachers,  
And asked what she wanted -  
Light in her eyes, a smile  
Starting at the corners  
Of her mouth. I fingered  
A nickle in my pocket,  
And when she lifted a chocolate  
That cost a dime,  
I didn't say anything.  
I took the nickle from  
My pocket, then an orange,  
And set them quietly on  
The counter. When I looked up,

The lady's eyes met mine,  
And held them, knowing  
Very well what it was all  
About.

Outside,  
A few cars hissing past,  
Fog hanging like old  
Coats between the trees.  
I took my girl's hand  
In mine for two blocks,  
Then released it to let  
Her unwrap the chocolate.  
I peeled my orange  
That was so bright against  
The gray of December  
That, from some distance,  
Someone might have thought  
I was making a fire in my hands.

Title of Poem: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the subject of the poem?

2. Who is the speaker?

3. Who is the audience?

4. Paraphrase the poem: Translate the poem into your own words – paraphrase line by line for short poems OR summarize stanza by stanza for long poems. Look for: Syntactical units (complete sentences (or ideas) rather than line by line)

5. Annotate the poem for devices. Contemplate the meaning beyond the literal. Examine any and all devices, **focusing on how such devices contribute to the meaning, the tone, or both.**

Poetic Device (s) (See other side for suggestions)	Example from the poem	How does this device contribute to the meaning of the poem?	How does this device contribute to the tone?
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DICTION			
IMAGERY			
TONE			

Rhyme devices			

6. What is the theme of the poem?  
a. Recognize the human experience, motivation, or condition suggested by the poem.

b. First list what the poem is about (subjects);

c. Then determine what the poet is saying about each of those subjects (theme).

d. Remember, the theme must be expressed as a complete sentence.

List