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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poetic Device(s) (See other side for suggestions)</th>
<th>Example from the poem</th>
<th>How does this device contribute to the meaning of the poem?</th>
<th>How does this device contribute to the tone?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DICTION</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IMAGERY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TONE</strong></td>
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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