

Name: _____ Date: _____

Analyzing Poetry

Below is Rebecca Kai Dotlich's poem "One Moon," which was inspired by the play *A Walk on the Moon*. Read the poem a few times. Then answer the questions on the next pages. This activity is meant to be completed in groups or as a class.



One Moon by Rebecca Kai Dotlich

- 1 On sidewalks and boardwalks,
by televisions and radios the world waited
to share in the magic.
The moon had always been a mystery,
- 5 and walking on it the first time seemed to be a miracle,
like knowing a father can be on the other side
of the world and see the same moon as me.
I think we are all like astronauts, chasing
a dream of the unknown, sometimes in ordinary ways.
- 10 Someone is working or walking,
talking or teaching, picking lemons from a tree,
riding a bike, or putting on a uniform
when the sun comes up.
No matter where we are, who we love,
- 15 the same moon shines on us all.
The hero, the curious, the quiet, the brave.
Mysteries and miracles are everywhere.
One time it went like this:
Apollo to Houston,
Apollo to Houston . . .

Directions: Work with your group to answer the following questions. There are no right or wrong answers! Note: Be sure to read the play *A Walk on the Moon* before completing this activity.

1A From whose point of view is this poem written?

1B How do you know?

2 What is the speaker describing in lines 1-3 of the poem? What does she mean when she says that the world waited to "share in the magic"?

3 In lines 8-9, the speaker says, "I think we are all like astronauts, chasing/a dream of the unknown, sometimes in ordinary ways." What do you think the speaker means?

4 In lines 10-13, the speaker lists things that someone is doing—working, walking, talking, and so on. What do these lines add to the poem?

5 In line 17, the speaker says, "Mysteries and miracles are everywhere." Where else in the poem does she talk about mysteries and miracles?

6 In lines 18-20, the speaker says, "One time it went like this: / *Apollo to Houston*, / *Apollo to Houston . . .*" What is the "it" in line 18?

7 Consider the title of the poem. How does it connect to ideas in the poem?

8 In your own words, state the big ideas of the poem.

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Write a *Scope*-Inspired Poem

Directions: Rebecca Kai Dotlich used the *Scope* drama *A Walk on the Moon* as inspiration for her poem "One Moon." Now it's your turn to write a poem inspired by a story in *Scope*. This activity will help you plan your poem.

1. Choose the story you will use as inspiration for your poem.

Think back over everything you've read in *Scope* this school year: the narrative nonfiction, dramas, fiction, infographics, interviews, grammar activities—everything! What's the first story that pops into your mind? That one is probably a good choice to use as inspiration for your poem.

If you're not sure which story to choose, though, take a few minutes to look through the issues from this year. Choose a story that you really enjoyed, that made you think, or that taught you something important.

The *Scope* story I will use as inspiration for my poem: _____

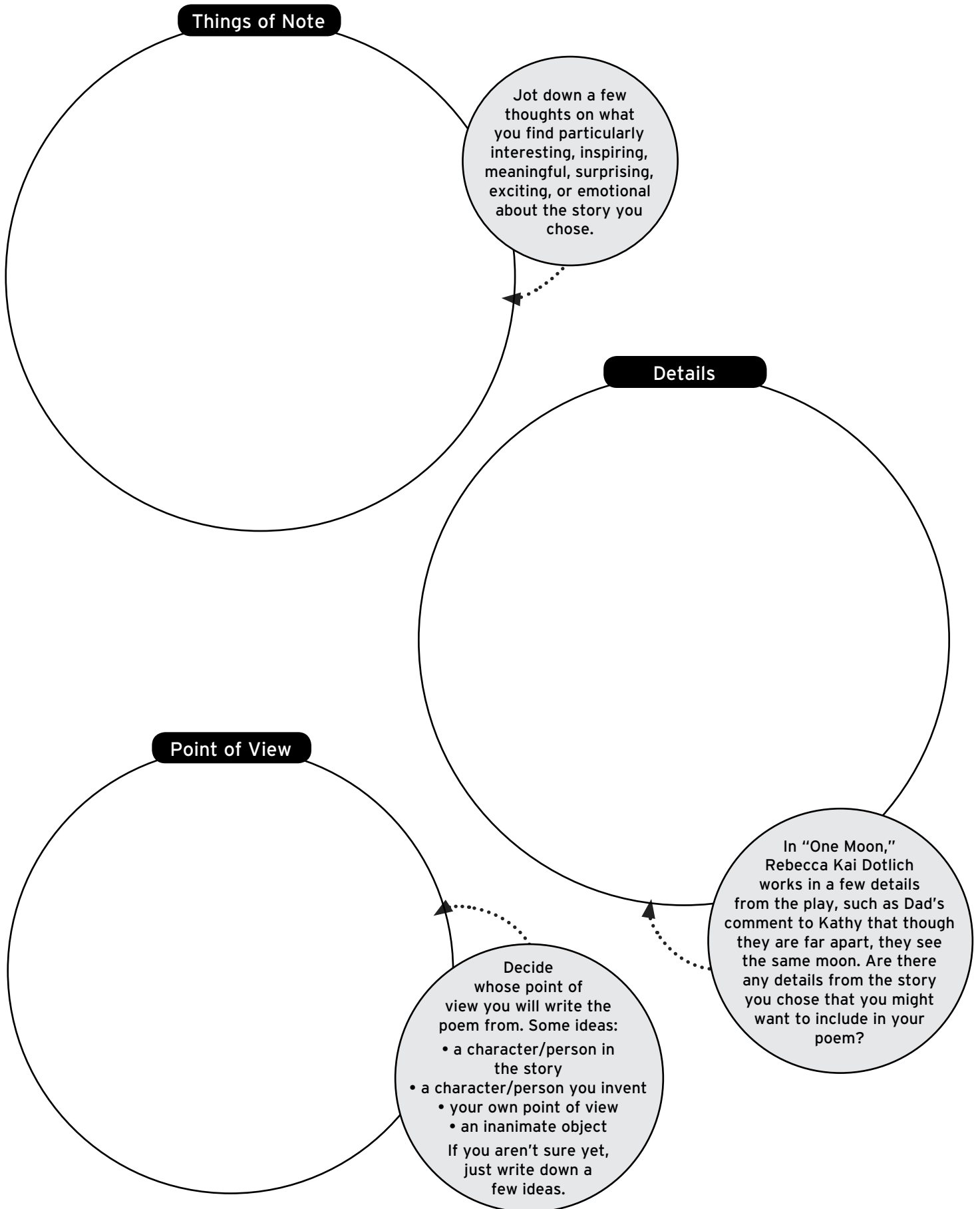
2. Reread the story that you chose.

Reread the story you chose so that it is fresh in your mind.

3. Gather some ideas.

Fill in the circles on the next two pages of this activity with ideas for your poem. You don't need to write in complete sentences or go in any particular order—feel free to jump around the pages in any way you like.





Big Ideas

What big idea or ideas do you want to express with your poem?

Title

Do you have any ideas about what to call your poem? Write them here.

Other Notes

This space is just for you to jot down any other ideas or notes that you might have.

4. Start writing your poem.

Use what you've written in the circles to get you started. You can use "One Moon" for a model of how to write a poem based on an article or story—though your poem does NOT need to be similar to "One Moon" in any way other than being inspired by a Scope story.

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

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Scope Poetry Contest

We asked one of our favorite poets, Rebecca Kai Dotlich, to write a poem inspired by the play in this issue. We love what she came up with! Now it's your turn. Write your own poem in response to any story you read in *Scope* this year. Five winners will each get a \$25 Visa gift card.

Entries will be judged on:

⇒ creativity

⇒ clarity

⇒ strength of descriptive language

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name : _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this sheet with your typed short story and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
Or mail to: *Scope* Poetry Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY June 15, 2018!