

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.