


Name: _____ Date: _____

Analyzing Poetry

Below is Jennifer Dignan's poem "Gratitude." Read the poem a few times. Then answer the questions on the next page. This activity is meant to be completed with a partner, in groups, or as a class.

Gratitude by Jennifer Dignan



Go to
Scope Online
to hear this
poem read
aloud.

- 1 For this brand-new pair of purple socks
so thick, so warm, so soft
and also that my family could afford these socks
and also that I have plenty of other socks
- 5 and also that my feet, inside these socks
carried me through my day
down the hallways of my school
across the cafeteria to my friends
up the stairs to my violin lesson
- 10 and also that my feet will carry me home
where it's warm and safe and dry
where there is plenty to eat
where my parents will hug me
and my dog will spin in circles of dizzy joy
- 15 where, when darkness falls and all goes quiet
I will climb into bed
after pulling off
these wonderful socks

Directions: Work with your partner or group to answer the following questions. Some ask you to use colored pencils to mark the poem on page 1 of this activity. There are no right or wrong answers to most of the questions!

1 Describe how the title of the poem relates to the rest of the poem.

2 How many lines are in the first stanza?

3 How many lines are in the second stanza?

4 Why do you think the poet chose to break the poem into two stanzas at the place where she did?

This poem includes repetition—words and phrases that appear a few times. For example, the phrase "and also that" appears several times (always at the beginning of a line).

5 Use a colored pencil to circle "and also that" each time it appears.

6 Find other words or phrases in the poem that repeat. For each word or phrase, choose a different color and then circle that word or phrase with that color each time it appears.

7 What is the effect of the repetition in the poem? In other words, how does it affect the sound or meaning of the poem?

8 Look at lines 7-9. What is special or particular about the way the poet chose to begin these lines?

9 In your own words, describe what the speaker is expressing gratitude for in lines 5-9.

10 In lines 1-2, the speaker says that she is grateful for a new pair of purple socks. How are these socks related to all of the other things that the speaker talks about in the poem? Explain.

11 In the last line of the poem, the speaker calls the socks "wonderful." What makes the socks so wonderful? Explain.

12 How would you describe the tone of this poem? Why?