

Name: _____ Date: _____

Analyzing Poetry

Below is Francisco X. Alarcón's poem "Ode to My Shoes." Read the poem a few times. Then answer the questions on the following pages.

An **ode** is a type of poem expressing the writer's thoughts and feelings about a particular person, place, or thing. Often, an ode is written to praise or celebrate that person, place, or thing.

Ode to My Shoes by Francisco X. Alarcón

- 1 my shoes
rest
- 3 all night
under my bed
- 5 tired
they stretch
- 7 and loosen
their laces
- 9 wide open
they fall asleep
- 11 and dream
of walking
- 13 they revisit
the places
- 15 they went to
during the day
- 17 and wake up
cheerful
- 19 relaxed
so soft

Listen to this
poem read aloud at
scope.scholastic.com

Structure

1 How many stanzas are there?

2 How many lines are in each stanza?

3 At the end of each line, write down how many syllables are in that line. What do you notice? What is the largest number of syllables in any line?

Meaning

4 Personification is describing something that is not human as though it were human. Explain how the poet uses personification in "Ode to My Shoes."

5 How is the last line of the poem a little different from the rest of the poem?

6 In your own words, briefly summarize what the speaker says his shoes do.

7 What is the tone of this poem? In other words, what is the speaker's attitude toward his shoes? Explain why you think that.

8 Do you think the way the speaker describes his shoes reveals anything about the speaker himself? Explain.