# Oranges by Gary Soto

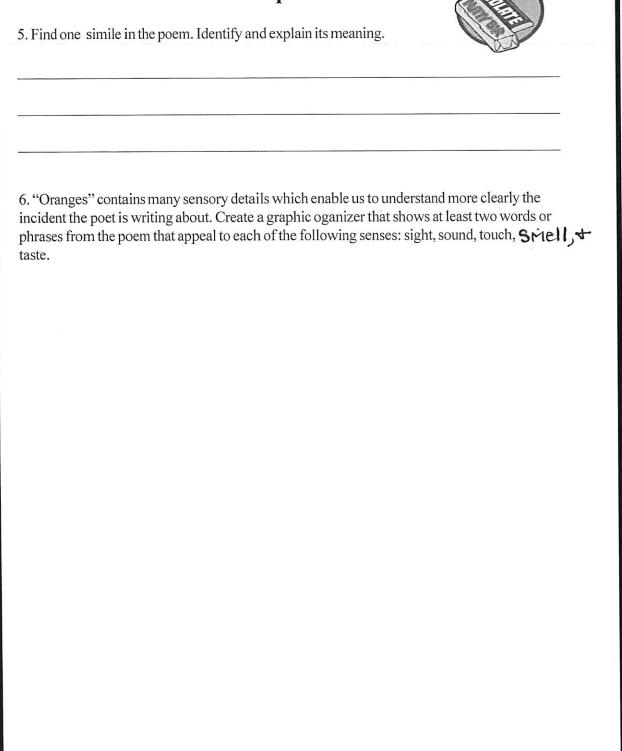
Gary Soto Oranges The first time I walked With a girl, I was twelve, Cold, and weighted down With two oranges in my jacket. December. Frost cracking Beneath my steps, my breath Before me, then gone, As I walked toward Her house, the one whose Porch light burned yellow Night and day, in any weather. A dog barked at me, until She came out pulling At her gloves, face bright With rouge. I smiled, Touched her shoulder, and led 'er down the street, across 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.

After reading the poem, "Oranges" by Gary Soto, please answer the following questions.

1. The a. b. c. d.	theme of the poem could best be identified as: heartbreak first love poverty winter
2. The a. b. c. d.	setting of the poem is: a town a farm an apartment complex a mall
<ul><li>3. Whi</li><li>a.</li><li>b.</li><li>c.</li><li>d.</li></ul>	ch of these adjectives best describes the sales lady in the drugstore? suspicious impatient nervous generous
4. Wha	at does the poet want us to understand in the following passage?
	lady's eyes met mine And held them, ing Very well what it was all ."
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3. Discuss another way the sales lady nave changed the outcome of the dat	might have reacted to the boy's action and explain how that mighte.

#### Poetic Themes and Devices Student Response Sheet # 4 Performance Event Student Prompt

Read the poem, "Oranges," again carefully. Create a graphic organizer which shows in chronological order at least six main events that occurred during the boy's date with the girl. On the next page, write a paragraph or more summarizing those events.



#### Summary

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