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
Her down the street, across
A 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.

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| 5. In what way is does the speaker illustrate a proactive approach to a form of external conflict?https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttps://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 6.  | How does the lady in the shop help the speaker?https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttps://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 7.  | Explain the significance of the title.https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttps://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 8.  | Alliteration is the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words. List an example of alliteration used in the poem.https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 9.  | Imagery is the use of language to appeal to the senses. List two examples of imagery used in the poem regarding the weather.https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttps://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 10.  | Form refers to how the words of a poem are laid out on the page. Discuss the form of this poem.https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttps://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 11.  | A symbol is a concrete object that represents an abstract feeling, idea, or belief. What do the oranges and chocolate symbolize in the poem?https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gifhttps://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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| 12.  | A simile is a comparison between two things using the words "like" or "as". List an example of a simile used in the poem.https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif |

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