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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| |  | | --- | | 5. In what way is does the speaker illustrate a proactive approach to a form of external conflict? https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif  https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 6. | How does the lady in the shop help the speaker? https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif  https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 7. | Explain the significance of the title. https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif  https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 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 | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 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.gif  https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 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.gif  https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 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.gif  https://imgs.edhelper.com/clipart/wordline.gif | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | 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 | |