

Text-Dependent Questions: Stanza 1 of “O’ Beautiful Storm”

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: *Work in your triads to read each question, reread “O’ Beautiful Storm,” discuss the response, and then record a response. Stop at the “stop” line.*

1. Read the line “She’s the music in my ears, and the mold in my soul.” Who do you think “she” is?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Read the line “The flood water in my blood makes my heart beat harder.” **Beat** is a homograph, which is a group or pair of words that are spelled the same way but have different meanings. What are two different meanings of the word **beat**?

Word	Definition
Beat	
Beat	

3. The poem says, “Write a **sonnet** to her, serenade her, recite her a poem.” What does **sonnet** mean? Use a vocabulary strategy on the Close Readers Do These Things anchor chart to determine the meaning of this word.

Word	Definition in your own words
sonnet	

4. a. What is the poet reflecting (thinking carefully and deeply) on? How do you know?

- b. What does he think and feel about it? How do you know? What words does he use to show us what he is thinking and feeling?

5. a. What is a theme of the first stanza of this poem? Underline the best answer.

- A. Live in the present because you don't know what is going to happen in the future.
- B. The storm and the devastation it caused are unforgettable for the people who lived through it.
- C. Normal people can be heroes in a natural disaster.
- D. Don't forget about your friends and family.

b. How do you understand the theme you have underlined above? How does Gian Smith communicate this theme? Use evidence from the poem to support your answer.

- c. Which of the two summaries below is the most appropriate for the first stanza of this poem? Record a checkmark next to the correct option and explain why in the box.

In the first stanza of the poem “O’ Beautiful Storm,” Gian Smith reflects on how he feels about Hurricane Katrina and the damage the storm caused. He describes how he can’t forget about how terrible the storm was. From these descriptions we understand the theme “The storm and the devastation it caused are unforgettable for the people who lived through it.” He says, “I got the Rain in my veins,” which expresses how this storm will always be inside him. He also says, “I’ve got the scent of the death and decay in the wind/Sinking into my nose and under my skin,” explaining how he can’t forget about the smell of death and destruction caused by the storms.	
In the first stanza of the poem “O’ Beautiful Storm,” Gian Smith reflects on the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. He describes how he can’t forget about how terrible the storm was. From these descriptions we understand the theme “don’t forget about your friends and family.” He reminds us to write songs and poems about our friends and family when he says, “Write a sonnet to her.”	

STOP

6. How do the visuals in the “Katrina: Don’t Let Her Go” video contribute to the meaning, tone, and beauty of the “O’ Beautiful Storm” text?

Use the chart to organize your thinking, and then QuickWrite your response to the question above:

Visual artist:			
Phrase/Line from Text	Meaning	Tone	Beauty
	What do the words mean?	(Attitude of author)	What is beautiful about the words?
	How do the visuals at that point contribute to the meaning?	What attitude is the author communicating about this event?	How do the visuals help you to understand this beauty?
		How do the visuals help you to understand this tone?	
“I’ve got the scent of the death and decay in the wind”			
