

Dialogue with a Text

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Please read the text, and take a moment or two to reflect on it. After that, turn to the next page and begin. Take a few minutes--as much as you need or want--to reflect on each question for a moment or two, perhaps jotting down brief notes, before discussing it. Some may be more productive than others for you, and you may wish to give those more time. There is no rush, no need to finish them all. Please don't glance ahead in the booklet.

Please read the poem, and take a moment or two to reflect on it. Then turn to the next page and begin. Take a few minutes--as much as you need or want--with each question. Please reflect on each question for a moment or two, perhaps jotting down brief notes, before discussing it. Some may be more productive than others for you, and you may wish to give those more time. There is no rush, no need to finish them all. Please don't glance ahead in the booklet.

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Introduce yourself to your partners--where are you from, where do you teach, what are your interests, and so on. Ask any questions you wish.

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What is your first reaction or response to the text? What feelings or emotions did you have as you read the poem? Describe or explain briefly.

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What did you see happening in the text?  
Paraphrase it--retell the event briefly.  
When you discuss, see if there are  
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What memory does the text call to mind--of people, places, events, sights, smells, or even of something more ambiguous, perhaps feelings or attitudes?

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What idea or thought was suggested by the poem? Explain it briefly.

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What is the most important word in the text?

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What sort of person do you imagine the author of this text to be?

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Did you feel involved with the text, or distant from it?

Did you feel involved with the poem, or distant from it?

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How did your reading of the text differ from that of your discussion partners? In what ways were they similar?

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How did your understanding of the text or your feelings about it change as you talked?

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Does this text call to mind any other literary work (poem, play, film, story--any genre)? If it does, what is the connection you see between the two?

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What did you observe or learn about your discussion partners as the talk has progressed?

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If you were to be asked to write about your reading of this text, upon what would you focus? Would you write about some association or memory, some aspect of the text itself, about the author, or about some other matter?

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## Photocopying Instructions:

We need booklets prepared from these masters. Each sheet has four copies of the same small page. Please make photocopies in the amount of roughly 1/4 the number of participants. The copies can then be stapled and cut, each yielding 4 small booklets 5.5" x 4.25".



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