

Poetry: Identifying Speaker & Tone LRA 3.7 & 3.9

Step 1: Read the following two poems. Use the analysis process we have been using to help you understand the poems.

Eating Together

By Li-Young Lee

In the steamer is the trout
seasoned with slivers of ginger,
two prigs of green onion, and sesame oil.
We shall eat it with rice for lunch,
brothers, sister, my mother who will taste the
sweetest meat of the head,
holding it between her fingers
deftly, the way my father did
weeks ago. Then he lay down
to sleep like a snow covered road
winding through pines older than him,
without any travelers, and lonely for no one.

Predict what the poem is about.

Questions:

- 1.
- 2.
3. What happened after the father lay down?

Monitor by underlining imagery & circling figurative language.

Summarize the poem in your own words.

Evaluate: What theme or message does the poet convey?

Grape Sherbet

By Rita Dove

The day? Memorial.
After the grill
Dad appears with his masterpiece—
Swirled snow, gelled light.
We cheer. The recipe's a
secret and he fights
a smile, his cap turned up
So the bib resembles a duck.

That morning we galloped
through the grassed-over mounds
and named each stone
for a lost milk tooth, Each dollop
of sherbet, later,
is a miracle,
like salt on a melon that makes it sweet

Everyone agrees—it's wonderful!
It's just how we imagined lavender
would taste. The diabetic grandmother
stares from the porch,
a torch
of pure refusal.

We thought no one was lying
there under our feet
We thought it
was a joke. I've been trying
to remember the taste,
but it doesn't exist. Now I see why
you bothered father.

Predict what the poem is about.

Questions:

- 1.
- 2.
3. Why does the taste of sherbet no longer exist?

Monitor by underlining imagery & circling figurative language.

Summarize the poem in your own words.

Evaluate: What theme or message does the poet convey?

Step 2: After your reading of the poems, compare the two by completing the chart below.

Task	Poem #1 “Eating Together” by Li-Young Lee	Poem #2: “Grape Sherbet” by Rita Dove
<p>Who is the speaker?</p>		
<p>What</p> <p>a.) is the poem’s tone or attitude? Does it change from the beginning to the end of the poem?</p> <p>b.) figurative language does the poet use?</p> <p>c.) imagery does the poet present to the reader?</p>	<p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p>	<p>a.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c.</p>
<p>When does the poem take place?</p>		
<p>Where does the poem take place?</p>		
<p>Why does the poet choose to write about these memories?</p>		