

Name:

Poem of the week #3: Rite of Passage, Sharon Olds

Sophomore English Honors

Due: Monday, November 9th

Directions

Overview: Read the poem first to enjoy it. Read it straight on through, preferably aloud. Then read it again (and again), looking for any of the following literary devices or features:

- Language: tone, style, diction (word choice)
 - Conventions: punctuation, grammar
 - Devices: imagery, metaphor, symbols, repetition, etc.
 - Design: structure, organization (stanzas. Layout of stanzas)
 - Themes: ideas that run throughout the poem
 - Connections: Does the poem connect or allude to literature, history, popular culture, art, etc.?
 - Purpose: Is the poet trying to explain? Define? Persuade? What, why, and how do they do this?
- ✓ You *must* show evidence of close reading – for example, underlined words, comments, questions, connections, suspected patterns.
 - ✓ You must *word-process/type a small analysis essay* regarding the poem. Your response must strive to be a grammatically correct essay (not a loosely written journal-type response) with a clear assertion, supporting details, and examples or quotations from the poem embedded within your sentences.
 - ✓ Your paragraph must include quotations from the poem. These quotations must be embedded, not left to stand alone.

The Bean Eaters (1960)
by Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000)

They eat beans mostly, this old yellow pair.

Dinner is a casual affair.

Plain chipware on a plain and creaking wood,

Tin flatware.

Two who are Mostly Good.

Two who have lived their day,

But keep on putting on their clothes

And putting things away.

And remembering . . .

Remembering, with twinklings and twinges,

As they lean over the beans in their rented back room that

is full of beads and receipts and dolls and cloths,

tobacco crumbs, vases and fringes.