

Interpret the Text Using Close Reading

Learning Targets

- Read closely to draw inferences and conclusions in poetry.
- Evaluate a writer’s language choices to determine how specific words and phrases create different effects on the audience.

Read and Annotate

Read “My Mother Pieced Quilts” and annotate the text as you read.

- Use the My Notes area to write any questions or ideas you have about the poem.
- Underline phrases that the author uses to describe the quilt.
- Put a star next to words or phrases that you pictured in your mind.
- Circle unknown words and phrases.

Poetry

my mother pieced quilts



by Teresa Palomo Acosta

they were just meant as covers
in winters
as weapons
against pounding january winds
5 but it was just that every morning I awoke to these
october ripened canvases
passed my hand across their cloth faces
and began to wonder how you pieced
all these together
10 these strips of gentle communion cotton and flannel
nightgowns
wedding organdies
dime store velvets



Language Resources

Figures of speech

A figure of speech is a phrase or expression that uses words in a figurative way rather than in a plain or literal way. “Pieced quilts” is a figure of speech. It does not mean that the quilt is cut in pieces. It means it was made out of several pieces that were sewn together. Pieced quilts are sometimes called patchwork quilts.



Language Resources

Personification

Acosta uses personification, which is a type of figurative language that gives human qualities to an object. Look at line 7. She says she passed her hand across “their cloth faces.” By giving them “faces,” Acosta makes the quilts seem alive.

MY NOTES

ripened: ready or finished

organdies: fine cotton or silk fabric that is sewn into clothing or curtains to make them stronger