

Grade 8 NTI Day #5 ELA

Teacher: Mrs. Lee

Text:

Blizzard

By Linda Pastan

Assignment Instruction:

- Task 1 – Read and Annotate the Poem
 - Underline key ideas and details
 - Make notes in the margin every few lines – write a summary or ask a question
- Task 2 – Complete the text dependent questions (1-9). Be sure to respond to short answer prompts with complete sentences.

Important:

This assignment will also be available in Google Classroom. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Lee with any questions via email: andrea.lee@pineville.kyschools.us

Name: _____

Class: _____

Blizzard

By Linda Pastan

1978

Linda Pastan is an American poet of Jewish background who was Poet Laureate of Maryland from 1991-1995. She is known for writing short, relatable poems that address themes of common experiences people share throughout their lives. As you read, take notes on how the author uses figurative language to describe the blizzard.

[1] the snow
has forgotten
how to stop
it falls

[5] stuttering
at the glass
a silk windsock¹
of snow
blowing

[10] under the porch light
tangling trees
which bend
like old women
snarled²

[15] in their own
knitting
snow drifts
up to the step
over the doorsill

[20] a pointillist's³ blur
the wedding⁴
of form and motion
shaping itself
to the wish of

[25] any object it touches
chairs become
laps of snow



["Under the weight of snow, a tree falls next to a car in Asheville, North Carolina"](#) by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is in the public domain.

1. a large fabric tube that is placed on a pole and used to show the direction of the wind
2. **Snarl** (*verb*) to entangle or twist together
3. Pointillism is a style of painting in which a picture is formed from many small dots.
4. **Wed** (*verb*) to combine

the moon could be
breaking apart
[30] and falling
over the eaves
over the roof
a white bear
shaking its paw
[35] at the window
splitting the hive
of winter
snow stinging
the air
[40] I pull a comforter
of snow
up to my chin
and tumble
to sleep
[45] as the whole
alphabet
of silence
falls out of the
sky

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Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which of the following best identifies the theme of the text?
 - A. Aging is painful.
 - B. Nature is violent and destructive.
 - C. Winter is a time of loss.
 - D. The beauty of winter creates calm.

2. PART B: Which lines from the poem best support the answers to Part A?
 - A. "like old women / snarled / in their own / knitting" (Lines 13-16)
 - B. "the moon could be / breaking apart / and falling" (Lines 28-30)
 - C. "I pull a comforter / of snow / up to my chin / and tumble / to sleep" (Lines 40-44)
 - D. "as the whole / alphabet / of silence / falls out of the / sky" (Lines 45-50)

3. How does Pastan's use of imagery contribute to the mood of the poem?
 - A. Pastan presents images of a steady and quiet snowfall, creating a mellow and relaxed mood.
 - B. Pastan presents images of winter, contributing to the saddened, grieving mood.
 - C. Pastan presents an image of a bear attacking a beehive, creating a frightening mood.
 - D. Pastan presents an image of a wedding, creating a celebratory and exciting mood.

4. How does the poem's structure reflect the content of the poem?
 - A. The rhyme scheme creates a rhythm that is similar to the sound of snow falling to the ground.
 - B. The lines of varying length of lines are similar to snowflakes, which are also different in size.
 - C. The lines of staggered length resemble a bear, just like the one mentioned in the poem.
 - D. The short lines and length of the poem make the poem appear like snow falling out of the sky.

5. How does the figurative language in lines 20-25 contribute to the description of the blizzard?
