

Name:	Date:
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Hanging Fire

Audre Lorde

Translating Grandfather's House

E. J. Vega

SHORT-RESPONSE QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following items after you have read the text.

RL.8.1 Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.

1. (a) Draw an inference from the text.

What do the first two lines of “Hanging Fire” suggest about the speaker’s self-image?

(b) Cite textual evidence to support your inference.

Cite evidence from the first or third stanza of the poem to support the inference you drew.

RL.8.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.

2. Explain figurative language.

Explain the figurative language of the title “Translating Grandfather’s House.” What does the speaker mean by saying that he has “translated” his grandfather’s house?



EXTENDED-RESPONSE ACTIVITY Theme

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following activity as either a written response or a group discussion.

RL.8.2 Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting, and plot; provide an objective summary of the text.

3. Identify a theme of “Hanging Fire” that concerns the idea of waiting. Explain how the details in the poem support this theme. Remember that the term *hang fire* means “to do nothing” or “to wait.” In your explanation, discuss how *hang fire* and other references to waiting help develop the theme.

Use these guidelines in your writing or discussion.

- State a theme of the poem.
- Make clear how the theme relates to the idea of doing nothing or waiting.
- Explain how the speaker’s situation relates to the theme, and cite specific details in the poem to support your ideas.

TIP FOR WRITTEN RESPONSE

Provide sufficient evidence and examples to offer strong support for your claims.

TIP FOR DISCUSSION

Ask for evidence of one another’s claims. For example, ask, “What evidence can you cite for that idea?”



COMPARE → Structure

DIRECTIONS: Complete the following question to compare “Hanging Fire” with “Translating Grandfather’s House.”

RL.8.5 Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the differing structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.

4. Compare and contrast how the structures of two texts contribute to their meanings.

“Hanging Fire” is a lyric poem, and “Translating Grandfather’s House” is a narrative poem. Identify a central idea of each poem, and explain how its structure helps the speaker express that idea. For the lyric poem, consider such structural elements as musical effects, expression of feelings, and details. For the narrative poem, consider elements such as character, conflicts, and setting.

