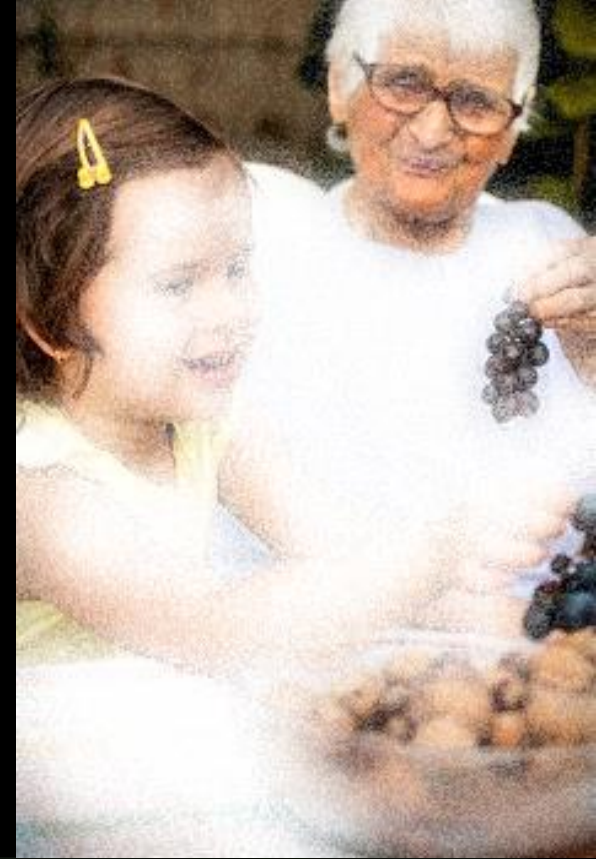




COMPARING TEXTS

Cold as Heaven

GENTLE
COMMUNION



UNIT 3 What We Keep Poetry Connection



SPEAK YOUR MIND

Grandparents. What's not to love?
They spoil you rotten when mom and
dad aren't around. They are always on
your side of an issue.

What's your relationship with them like?
Take a minute to describe some special
moment you shared with them.





Judith Ortiz Cofer was a small child when she moved from Puerto Rico to the States with her family. Ortiz Cofer said that family is one of the main topics of her poetry: “The place of birth itself becomes a metaphor for the things we must all leave behind; the assimilation of a new culture is the coming into maturity by accepting the terms necessary for survival. My poetry is a study of this process of change, assimilation, and transformation.”

Pat Mora was born in El Paso, Texas, where her grandparents had moved from Mexico during the Mexican Revolution. Mora grew up speaking both English and Spanish in a household where “books were an important part of my life.”



Cold as Heaven



Cofer's poem recounts a conversation between a person and his or her dying grandmother, in which talking about the weather helps to take their minds off of elements beyond their control. Cofer has said that, "In a sense I have been connected through my imagination.... My poetry is my emotional and intellectual connection to my heritage."

GENTLE COMMUNION



Important themes within Pat Mora's work include family, Mexican-American culture, and the desert. Mora has said that many of her ideas come from the desert where she grew up, which included "open spaces, wide sky, all that sun and all those animals that scurry across the hot sand or fly over the mountains." In the poem, Mora writes about a person remembering his or her grandmother who has died and the relationship that they shared.

Both Cofer and Mora address death and loss in their poems. Very common in poetry. These subjects have long been discussed in verse and poets' approaches have ranged from the quiet acceptance of death to its defiance, both from the perspective of the one who is dying and the one who is mourning the loss.





LITERARY SKILL

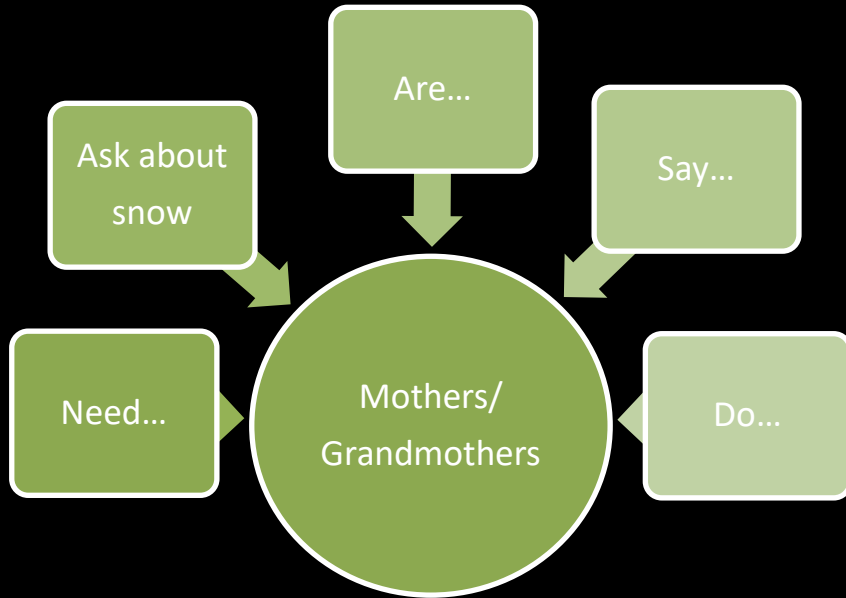
Speaker

Is the character who speaks in, or narrates, a poem. While you read, think about the speaker in each poem. Is the author writing as herself, or as someone else?

Tone

Is the emotional attitude toward the reader or toward the subject implied by a literary work. What techniques does each author use to achieve the tone?

READING STRATEGY



Important Details

It is helpful to write down your own thoughts on ideas and themes within a poem. Consider what the poem describes, and what it reminds you of. Select a topic presented in the poem. Write that topic in the main circle of a Cluster Chart. In the surrounding circles, jot down any details from your notes to easily compare and contrast two poems with similar topics. After reading, infer the themes of the poems.

ASSESSMENT

After reading pages 216 - 219 in your book, complete these activities:

1. REFER TO TEXT &
2. REASON WITH TEXT
3. & ANALYZE LITERATURE
 - **Speaker and Tone** - Both Mora and Ortiz Cofer come from Latino immigrant families. Ortiz Cofer came to America as a small child, whereas Mora is a third-generation American. Discuss with a partner or small group how the immigrant experience comes into play between the speaker and the grandmother in each poem. How are the experiences of the speakers and the grandmothers different? How in these poems did immigration affect each character's experience?



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