5th Grade

Analyzing Poetry

Assessment

Unit 5

Using poem titled,

“A Little Further” by Berton Braley

Designed to measure standards:

RL.5.5- referring to parts of poem (lines/stanzas), how parts fit together

RL.5.4- vocabulary in context

RL.5.1- providing evidence

RL.5.6-point of view, feelings and attitudes about subject

RL.5.2- author’s message/theme

A Little Further

The reason I never can quit the road  
Is a reason that's plain and clear.  
It's because no matter where I may stop  
And whether it's far or near  
There's a place beyond the place I am,  
Wherever I may be at,  
And then beyond is a place beyond  
And the world beyond all that!  
  
And as long as a man has eyes to see  
And a brain that wants to know,  
I figure there's things he's bound to miss  
If he doesn't go on and go;  
For there's always a place beyond the place  
I happen to hang my hat,  
And another place beyond that place  
And the world beyond all that!  
  
There's some folks stay in a single spot  
Or a town of which they're fond,  
And never worry a little bit  
At the thought of a place beyond;  
But the place beyond the place beyond  
Won't never let me rest  
For there's a sort of a kind of urge  
That's burning within my breast--  
  
To go and go till the end of life,  
And when I've left it flat,  
Go on beyond the place beyond;  
And the universe after that!

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By Berton Braley

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Analyzing Poetry

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| Standard |  |
| RL.5.4 | What does the author mean when he says “quit the road” in stanza 1? |
| RL.5.6 | Who is the speaker in this poem? |
| RL.5.1  RL.5.5 | The speaker gives reasons why he “never can quit the road”. What reason does he give? |
| RL.5.1  RL.5.5 | How does he elaborate (tell more) on his reasons in stanza 2? |
| RL.5.4 | What does the author mean by “left it flat” in stanza 4? |
| RL.5. 5 | The author says that he “never can quit the road.” How does he develop this idea in stanza 3? |
| RL.5.6  RL.5.5 | How does the author feel about never quitting “the road”? |
| RL.5.7 | What is the author’s tone throughout the poem? Support your answer with details from the text. |
| RL.5.2  RL.5.1 | What is the poet’s message of this poem? Use specific evidence from the poem to support your answer. |

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Analyzing Poetry- POSSIBLE answers in green.

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| Standard |  |
| RL.5.4 | What does the author mean when he says “quit the road” in stanza 1?  When the author says “quit the road” that means traveling to different places. He talks about going different places. |
| RL.5.6 | Who is the speaker in this poem?  The poet, Berton Braley  (answers may vary) |
| RL.5.1  RL.5.5 | The speaker gives reasons why he “never can quit the road”. What reason does he give? He says he “never can quit the road” because in stanza 3 he says“there’s things he’s bound to miss if he doesn’t go on and go” and in stanza 6 he says he has a “kind of urge”. |
| RL.5.1  RL.5.5 | How does he elaborate (tell more) on his reasons in stanza 2?  In stanzas 2 and 3, he adds to his reason by saying that there’s a lot to learn. He says that “as long as you have eyes to see and a brain that wants to know” then you’ll miss out if you don’t travel. |
| RL.5.4 | What does the author mean by “left it flat” in stanza 4?  “Left it flat” means when he’s dead. He says at the “end of life” which means he died. |
| RL.5. 5 | The author says that he “never can quit the road.” How does he develop this idea in stanza 3? He talks about some people who can stay in one place and be completely happy in stanza 5. But he’s not one of them. |
| RL.5.6  RL.5.5 | What is the author’s attitude about never quitting “the road”?  His attitude is excited and he is adventurous. He thinks that there’s a lot to learn. In stanza 3, he says that “a brain that wants to know”. That means that he likes to learn. He also keeps talking about “a place beyond” the one he’s talking about. |
| RL.5.7 | What is the author’s tone throughout the poem? Support your answer with details from the text.  His tone is excited and upbeat. He uses lots of exclamation points, and also talks about going to all of the places “beyond”. He also uses rhyming words to make his poem sound fun. |
| RL.5.2  RL.5.1 | What is the poet’s message of this poem? Use specific evidence from the poem to support your answer.  His message is never stop exploring. He talks about going to places and more places until he is dead. He is never going to stop exploring because he thinks there’s so much to see and do. He thinks he’s going to miss something if he doesn’t. He says in stanza 2, that “there’s things he’s bound to miss if he doesn’t go on and go.” |

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Writing Task: W.5.2 & RL.5.5

You’ve read the poem “A Little Further” by Berton Braley. Write an essay explaining how Berton Braley develops his idea over the stanzas of the poem.

You will want to make sure you include:

1. The author’s overall idea or theme
2. Details from beginning of the poem
3. Details from the middle of the poem
4. Details from the ending of the poem
5. How the author uses those details to develop his idea

\*You may use the back of this paper to create your plan.

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