

Name

Date

Poem Analysis and Reading Comprehension

Text: *Walking the Field of Tulalip*

1. What is described in the poem that encourages imagery?
2. Who does the dog symbolize in the poem?
3. Why does the author use a pow wow blanket?
4. When is this poem set, before reservations were set up or afterwards?
5. What is the main idea of the poem?

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Walking the Field of Tulalip

Rhododendron, dahlia,
asphodel and sea rose—
drops of color fall
from the dream-wheel's brush,
strokes as real as the train whistle
miles off the reservation.

Dew diamonds burst with the morning star:
red, orange, and yellow buds begin
the sundance of bumblebee and dog.
Bumblebee paddles across the dahlia
with legs as oiled
as a long distance swimmer.
The dog strays on, raises his nose
and sniffs up, down, and sideways,
his offering to the spirit of scent.

I who was born a shadow,
track the shadow of a father
I never knew, drift like a crow
feather through waist-high grass.
I wear the Pow Wow blanket
for its three days of warmth.
So the next time someone strikes
my blood to earth, it will
still turn its bruises into song.

Note

In *Tulalip*, the letter "a" has the sound of its name in the English alphabet and is stressed. Tulalip is a reservation on the west side of Puget Sound, north of Seattle.

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Remembering Jose's Gift: In the Shadow of Rigoberta

Long night lightning broke the heat
on the day Jose came
renegade from Guatemala