

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ C/INC: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher or Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

You may complete this review package and submit it for bonus marks on the midterm assessment.

### Poetry Analysis

I. Read Denice Frohman's poem "Accents."

#### "Accents" by Denice Frohman

my mom holds her accent like a shotgun,  
with two good hands.  
her tongue, all brass knuckle  
slipping in between her lips  
her hips, all laughter and wind clap.

she speaks a sanchocho of spanish and english,  
pushing up against one another,  
in rapid fire

there is no telling my mama to be "quiet,"  
she don't know "quiet."

her voice is one size better fit all  
and you best not tell her to hush,  
she waited too many years for her voice to arrive  
to be told it needed housekeeping.

English sits her her mouth remixed  
so "strawberry" becomes "eh-strawbeddy"  
and "cookie" becomes "eh-cookie"  
and kitchen, key chain, and chicken all sound the same.

my mama doesn't say "yes"  
she says "ah ha"  
and suddenly the sky in her mouth becomes a Hector Lavoe song

her tongue can't lay itself down flat enough  
 for the English language,  
 it got too much hip  
 too much bone  
 too much conga  
 too much cuatro  
 to two step  
 got too many piano keys  
 in between her teeth,  
 it got too much clave  
 too much hand clap  
 got too much salsa to sit still  
 it be an anxious child wanting to  
 make Play-Doh out of concrete English  
 be too neat for her kind of wonderful.  
 her words spill in conversation  
 between women whose hands are all they got  
 sometimes our hands are all we got  
 and accents remind us that we are still  
 bomba, still plena

say "wepa"  
 and a stranger becomes your hermano.  
 say "dale"  
 and a crowd becomes your family reunion.

my mama's tongue is a telegram from her mother  
 decorated with the coqui's of el campo.

so even though her lips can barely  
 stretch themselves around english,  
 her accent is a stubborn compass  
 always pointing her  
 toward home.

*Sanchocho: A thick soup consisting of meat and root vegetables*

*Conga: A Latin American dance of African origin, usually with several people in a single line*

*Cuatro: A small guitar, typically with four (or five) single or paired strings*

*Clave: Key or clef*

*Bomba: A traditional Puerto Rican drum consisting of a barrel with a goatskin head*

*Plena: A style of Puerto Rican music having a highly syncopated rhythm and often satirical lyrics*

*Wepa: Slang exclamation used to express excitement, congratulations, and joy*

*Dale: Go ahead*

*Conqui: Common name for several species of small frogs native to Puerto Rico*

*El Campo: Field*

2. Write an analysis of Denice Frohman's poem "Accents."

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Grammar: There are no errors.	0.25 0.5 0.75 1
Structure: There is a topic sentence, transitions, and a concluding sentence.	0 0.25 0.5
Style: There is strong diction and a variety of sentence structures.	0 0.25 0.5
Content: There is a thoughtful explanation of why a quote is your favourite.	0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75 2 2.25 2.5 2.75 3