**Poetry, Level J, Maria**

Ideas/Content:

1. Weaves a theme throughout the piece.

2. Establishes a context and slowly builds the reader’s understanding that this is a Hispanic girl who may have traditionally been denied opportunities for success, but she has the power to change that.

3. Skillfully weaves social and cultural experiences into the poem.

Structure/Organization:

1. Chooses a genre appropriate to the purpose

2. Knows the genre structure well enough to allow the theme to unfold naturally

Voice/Point of View:

1. Writes with personality that comes through the words; writes with a sense that a real person is thinking about her own life goals and how she can reach them, overcoming the many obstacles she faces.

Word Choice/Description:

1. Weaves Spanish words into the poem to make the reader aware of who is speaking/thinking. Chooses the words carefully so the reader can interpret the meaning.

2. Uses specific phrases to counter negative stereotypes of Mexican Americans

3. Repeats similar phrases for effect and to counter one against the other; uses “drop” as a way to indicate it will not be easy.

Sentence Fluency/Structure:

1. Writes sentences that extend across many lines with staccato phrases. Most are punctuated correctly