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Literary Analysis SkillBuilder

Sound Devices

Part of the power of poetry comes from the poet's use of sound devices. These include rhyme and rhythm, **alliteration** (repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of words), **repetition** (repeated words or phrases), and **assonance** (repetition of vowel sounds within words that don't rhyme). Look for examples of repeated sounds in the poems. Write them in the chart.

Alliteration	Repetition	Assonance
went with	with her/with her	
		/

Follow Up: For each poem, describe how the sound devices enhance the experience of reading the poem.

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📖 Active Reading SkillBuilder

Drawing Conclusions About the Speaker

When reading a poem in which the **speaker** tells his or her thoughts in the first person, try to get an idea of who that person is. Make inferences based on what you read and then **draw a conclusion** based on those inferences. While reading the two poems, use the chart below to write anything you can conclude about the speakers, such as their values, feelings, or sense of identity. Remember that the speaker of a poem is not necessarily the poet.

"Lineage"		
Speaker's Values	**Speaker's Feelings**	**Speaker's Sense of Identity**

"The Courage That My Mother Had"		
Speaker's Values	**Speaker's Feelings**	**Speaker's Sense of Identity**

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Selection Open-Book Test

A. Think about why Walker chose to use alliteration in "Lineage" and what is suggested by the alliteration in each of the lines below. Circle the letter of one line you wish to discuss. Then follow the directions to fill in each box below. (26 points)

   a. "They moved through fields sowing seed."
   b. "They touched earth and grain grew."
   c. "With veins rolling roughly over quick hands"

Name the repeated initial consonant sound.	Circle one or more words in the list below that you think describe that sound. You may jot down your own word or words instead or in addition to these.
	explosive harsh rolling
	gentle hissing sharp
	growling popping soothing
What things, feelings, and ideas are suggested by the alliteration?	

B. Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (8 points each)

_____ 1. Which of the following is **most** emphasized by the title of "Lineage"?
   a. the speaker's straightforward manner
   b. the speaker's strong tie to his or her ancestors
   c. the rows of grain planted by the grandmothers
   d. the end of an era in the speaker's family's history

_____ 2. In the first stanza of "Lineage," the speaker conveys the idea that hard work can bring
   a. boredom.
   b. financial reward.
   c. joy and well-being.
   d. troubles and sorrows.

_____ 3. In the last line of "Lineage," the speaker reveals a feeling of
   a. pride.
   b. inferiority.
   c. self-hatred.
   d. contentment.

_____ 4. In "The Courage That My Mother Had," which of the following **best**
   describes the speaker's attitude toward the golden brooch?
   a. guilty
   b. scornful
   c. resentful
   d. appreciative

_____ 5. In "The Courage That My Mother Had," Millay uses repetition for effect
   or emphasis in
   a. line 3.
   b. line 4.
   c. lines 7 and 10.
   d. lines 7 and 12.

_____ 6. In **both** poems, the speakers
   a. wish they were living in the past.
   b. say they are very like their ancestors.
   c. recall words spoken by their ancestors.
   d. feel they lack certain qualities their ancestors had.

C. Answer **one** of the following questions based on your understanding of the poems.
Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (15 points)

1. In each poem, what is the speaker's attitude toward his or her ancestors? How does
   each speaker feel that he or she compares with the ancestors? Support your answer
   with details from the poems.

2. Compare the images each speaker uses to express his or her ancestors' best
   qualities. How are the images similar?

D. Linking Literature to Life. Answer the following question based on your own
experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (11 points)

   Think about qualities that you admire in the important adults in your life. What one
quality would you most want to "inherit"? Why?