“Childhood”

Every poem, essay, short story or novel contains an overall idea or truth about life in general. This idea is called a **theme**.

In the poem, “Childhood,” which follows, the poet questions where a child is in the presence of a mother’s warm love.

As you read “Childhood,” pay special attention to the colors the poet mentions. What do these colors represent?

**“Childhood” – Lorna Crozier**

Close your eyes for a moment,

listen:

the floor boards groan at your mother’s step,

bread pans scrape the oven grate,

her fingers tap the crust.

Where are you now?

Pretending sleep in another room

where windows turn dreams to frost,

feather forests, the birds are white

and make no sound.

Listen: your mother pours milk in a cup.

It holds the light like a small lamp,

draws shadows from her face.

Where have you gone?

Your mother is calling.

Your name is warmed by her breath.

Snow fills your tracks,

turns everything into a softer shape,

a silence, forgiveness.

Come in for supper,

it is growing dark.

A cup waits for you, a loaf of bread.

Please complete a TPCASTT for this poem. I am sure that as you went through it, you annotated the poem. Annotation is an elevated word meaning “highlight” underline, label and write jots notes, ask questions about the poem in order to help you understand it.

Your mother is calling, listen:

with her voice she builds a doorway

for you to enter, even now,

from such a long way off.