**Peeling Back the Layers of a Poem—**

**“A Blessing” by James Wright**

**Group 1**

1. **Summarize** the “story” of the poem, the who, what, when, where.

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1. Determine the **point of view** and the **verb tense** and the effects they have on the poem.

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1. Bracket **concrete details** in the poem (find 13). Copy them here:

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1. Discuss the **importance** of these details

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**Group 2**

1. Circle Wright’s **diction** choices, those words having different meanings (**denotation**) and that suggest different associations (**connotation**).
2. Provide dictionary definitions for these words and the associations they suggest. Use the following chart to present your findings:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Words** | **Denotation** | **Connotation** |
| Blessing |  |  |
| Bounds |  |  |
| Darken |  |  |
| Willows |  |  |
| Barbed |  |  |
| Ripple |  |  |
| Tensely |  |  |
| Bow |  |  |
| Munching |  |  |
| Nuzzled |  |  |
| Caress |  |  |
| Break |  |  |
| Blossom |  |  |

**Group 3**

1. Underline the **images** in the poem.
2. List them, and label which **sense** or **senses** each appeals to. (What words produce memories or pictures of sight, sound, taste, smell, touch, motion? Many are a combination.)
3. Discuss the **effect** of these images.

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| **Image** | **Sense(s)** |
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**Group 4**

1. Highlight the **figures of speech**.
2. List them, label them, and note the **effect** of each figure of speech, how each extends and deepens the experience of the poem.

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| **Quotation** | **Figure of speech** | **Effect** |
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**Group 5**

1. Circle the **symbols** in the poem.
2. List the symbols, and **explain what each stands for**, what it adds to the poem.

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| **Symbol** | **Significance** | **Effect** |
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Group 6

1. Underline sound devices—**alliteration** and **assonance**
2. List and explain the **effect** of each device.