Sweater

by **Alberto Forcada**
translated by **Judith Infante**

Grandmother,
I'm cold;
can you knit me
some wrinkles? A

A **Read and Discuss** What is the speaker really saying here?

Suéter

por **Alberto Forcada**

Abuela,
tengo frío;
téjeme a mí también
unas arrugas.



Think About/Talk About

Comprehension

"My Mother Pieced Quilts"

C Read and Discuss

Possible response: *The phrases reveal the mother as a strong, determined person who was influential in the life of her family.*

"Sweater"

A Read and Discuss

Possible responses: *The speaker is cold and wishes for a sweater knitted by his grandmother. He wishes for this because he associates love and warmth with the sweaters his grandmother knits.*

Extend the Discussion

Analyzing Word Choice What two images does the word "wrinkles" evoke? ***Possible response:*** *The word "wrinkles" evokes a thick, cozy sweater and a grandmother with wrinkled skin.*

as the base. Have pairs determine each word's part of speech and then write sentences using the word as a different part of speech.

Use line 4 of "My Mother Pieced Quilts" as an example: "against pounding january winds." *Pounding* is an adjective here. To use it as a verb, students might write: *Mom is pounding nails into the wall.* To use it as a gerund, students might write: *Pounding whole spices reduces them to a powder form.*

Differentiating Instruction

Readers Gaining Proficiency

Point out that this poem, unlike "My Mother Pieced Quilts," uses punctuation. Before students read, point out that the speaker is addressing his grandmother, as indicated by the comma after "Grandmother." Ask students what else the poem's punctuation indicates. ***Possible response:*** *The reader should pause after each punctuation mark. The punctuation at the end indicates that the speaker is asking a question.*

Review

Independent Practice

Reading Focus

Answers:

1. *They have a unique history and required much effort. The speaker in "Sweaters" wants wrinkles to feel warm and loved.*
2. ***Possible response:*** *The theme of both poems is that family members have deep, lasting influence.*

Vocabulary Check

3. *b* **4.** *c* **5.** *a*

Literary Focus

Possible Responses:

6. *The quilts have "cloth faces"; the mother "tucked them in . . . at night"; the quilts "lay armed / ready / shouting / celebrating."*
7. *He compares the sweater to wrinkles. He probably would not have used the comparison, as his sister likely does not have wrinkles.*
8. *The mother captures memories and stories in her quilts, as a painter might do in a painting.*
9. *They symbolize family history and the effort to preserve it.*
10. *The sweater symbolizes the grandmother's love, and that is the focus of the poem.*
11. *Simple words fit the speaker's love for his grandmother and his simple, childlike request.*

SKILLS FOCUS p. 696

Literary Skills
- Analyze symbolism.

Reading Skills
- Use strategies to read and analyze a poem.

Writing Skills
- Write to describe.

Applying Your Skills

SKILLS FOCUS **Literary Skills** Analyze symbolism.
Reading Skills Use strategies to read and analyze a poem.
Writing Skills Write to describe.

My Mother Pieced Quilts / Sweater/Suéter

Respond and Think Critically

Reading Focus

Read with a Purpose

1. Why are the quilts in "My Mother Pieced Quilts" more than just "covers"? Why does the speaker of "Sweater" want wrinkles?

Reading Skills: Reading Poetry

2. Review your charts, and think about the ideas each poem expresses. Then, decide what **theme,** or insight about life, comes through in each poem. Add a theme statement to each chart.

My Mother Pieced Quilts

1st thought unit	they were meant as covers in winter
2nd thought unit	

Poem's theme:

Vocabulary Check

Match each Vocabulary word with its definition.

3. frayed	**a.** pulled tight
4. somber	**b.** worn away; unravelled
5. taut	**c.** dark; melancholy

Literary Focus

Literary Analysis

6. **Identify** A figure of speech that gives something nonhuman human qualities is called **personification**. List three or more examples of personification in Acosta's poem.
7. **Hypothesize** To what does the speaker of "Sweater" compare the sweater? Would he have used this comparison if the poem had been addressed to his sister? Why or why not?
8. **Compare** In line 6 of "My Mother Pieced Quilts," the speaker refers to the quilts as "ripened canvases." What associations can you make between what her mother does and what a painter of pictures might do?

Literary Skills: Symbolism

9. **Interpret** What do you think the quilts symbolize for the speaker of "My Mother Pieced Quilts"?
10. **Interpret** Why do you think Forcado titled his poem "Sweater"? What might the sweater symbolize?

Literary Skills Review: Diction

11. **Analyze** A writer's choice of words is called **diction.** In "Sweater," how is the writer's choice of very simple words appropriate?

Writing Focus

Think as a Reader/Writer

Use It in Your Writing Look back at your lists in your **RWN**. Now, write a paragraph about an object that is significant to you. Like Acosta, use the form of a list to create a rich description.

What Do You Think Now?

Why do some ordinary objects, such as quilts and sweaters, evoke strong meanings?

Writing Focus

Alternative Prompt for Writers Gaining Proficiency Students may struggle to write a description. Instead, have them make a list of descriptive phrases and then try to work the phrases into a paragraph.

What Do You Think Now?

Have students give examples of people they know who are attached to particular objects. Ask students to think about why the objects have such strong meanings to those people.