**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ELA 7**

**Text Dependent Questions for” Bailando” by Pat Mora**

1. Describe the three different times when the aunt dance. How are they similar and different? (7.1, 7.6)
2. How does the repetition of words ending in -ing help structure the poem? (7.5)
3. What does the use of so many words ending in -ing suggest about the aunt? (7.4, 7.1)
4. In line 18, the speaker describes the aunt as “tottering now when you walk.” Based on the context of the poem, what does the word tottering mean? (7.4) Why would the speaker use this word to describe the aunt’s movements? (7.1)
5. What does the speaker mean when she says that the aunt is “white haired, but still young?” What evidence does the speaker provide to support that the aunt is “still young?” (7.1)
6. What is the speaker’s tone toward the aunt? Explain your choice using specific words and phrases from the poem. (7.1, 7.4)
7. How do these lines convey the poem’s theme: “...on your ninetieth birthday,/more beautiful than the orchid pinned on your shoulder?” (7.2)

Answers:

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| Describe the three different times when the aunt dances. How are they similar and different? (7.1) | The first time the aunt dances she is a young girl in Mexico spinning round and round. The second time the aunt dances she is a young woman dancing at a village event with her partners. The third time the aunt dances she is dancing with the speaker’s children on her 90th birthday. In each situation, she is dancing, but her movements have evolved to reflect her age and maturity. She starts by spinning which is a childlike behavior. Then moves to swaying, a more, mature calmer way to dance, matching her age of being a young adult. She finishes by waltzing, a more dignified formal way to dance. Her hair has also evolved with age from being long and black to white-haired. |
| How does the repetition of words ending in -ing help structure the poem? (RL7.4, RL7.5) | The speaker repeats “-ing” throughout the poem to show that his/her memories of her aunt are ongoing and continuing. It also captures the flow of the aunt’s life and the dancing. |
| What does the use of so many words ending in -ing suggest about the aunt? (RL7.4) | -Ing suggests that one is in the middle of an action, so the repetition of -ing suggests that the aunt is and always has been an active person who enjoys dancing. |
| In line 18, the speaker describes the aunt as, “tottering now when you walk.” Based on the context of the poem, what does the word tottering mean? (7.4) Why would the speaker use this word to describe the aunt’s movements? (7.1, 7.4) | The word *tottering* means to move in an unsteady manner. The speaker uses this word to describe the aunt’s movements because she can no longer move as gracefully and freely as she once did because of her age.  |
| What does the speaker mean when she says that the aunt is “white haired, but still young?” What evidence does the speaker provide to support that the aunt is “still young?” (RL7.1) | The speaker means that the aunt is older in age but is still young at heart and in her spirit. The speaker proves this by showing the aunt still dancing even when she is 90 years old and making jokes about how her “tottering” walk is actually how she dances now. |
| What is the speaker’s tone toward the aunt? What words of phrases convey the speaker’s tone of his/her aunt? | The speaker views his/her aunt in an admiring, loving manner. The speaker describes using the imagery of the aunt dancing through life by choosing words with positive connotations, such as “smiling,” “still young,” and “laughing.” |
| How do these lines convey the poem’s theme: “...on your ninetieth birthday,/more beautiful than the orchid pinned on your shoulder?” (7.2) | The theme of the poem is that age does not define one’s beauty. The lines demonstrate this idea by showing that her age is not preventing her from being more beautiful than a delicate flower. |