

Name: _____

Date: _____ Block: _____

“The Funeral” by Gordon Parks

After many snows I was home again.
Time had withered down to mere hills
The great mountains of my childhood.
Raging rivers I once swam trickled now like gentle streams.
And the wide road curving on to China or Kansas City or perhaps
Calcutta*
Had withered to a crooked path of dust
Ending abruptly at the county burying ground.
Only the giant who was my father remained the same.
A hundred strong men strained beneath his coffin
When they bore him to his grave.

*Calcutta is a major city in India

Directions: Answer the following questions using RES—RESTATE the question, give an EXAMPLE from the poem if possible, and write in complete SENTENCES.

1. What is the tone of this poem?
 - a. sarcastic
 - b. ironic
 - c. somber (sad)
 - d. stoic (unemotional)
2. Is there a rhyme scheme?
3. The words in one of the lines are written in a different order that we would usually say them. This is called inversion. Below, rewrite the line in the order you would most likely say it.
4. Write two lines that are examples of hyperbole (exaggeration) and tell what the exaggerations are.
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5. What are the allusions (references to something famous) mentioned in this poem?
6. Write three ways in which the place where the speaker grew up seems different to him.
7. What is the only event that occurs in this poem?
 - a. A man attends his father's funeral.
 - b. A man dies.
 - c. A man returns home after much time to attend his father's funeral.
 - d. A town changes much after many years.
8. Why did the rivers seem "raging" and the mountains "great" when the speaker was a child?
9. Why has the speaker returned home?
10. What type of poem is this?
 - a. Narrative because it tells a story.
 - b. Dramatic because it tells a story but looks like a script with all dialogue.
 - c. Lyric because it shares the speaker's thoughts and feelings.
 - d. Haiku because it is short, and it is about nature.