

“Debts” from “Out of the Dust”

<p>1 Daddy is thinking of taking a loan from Mr. Roosevelt and his men, to get some new wheat planted where the winter crop has spindled out and died. Mr. Roosevelt promises Daddy won't have to pay a dime till the crop comes in.</p>	<p>Subject matter - what is the poem about?</p>
<p>2 Daddy says, “I can turn the fields over, start again. It's sure to rain soon. Wheat's sure to grow.”</p>	<p>Theme - what is the message of the poem?</p>
<p>3 Ma says, “What if it doesn't?”</p>	<p>Emotions - what is the tone? Mood?</p>
<p>4 Daddy takes off his hat, roughs up his hair, puts the hat back on. “Course it'll rain,” he says.</p>	<p>Poetic devices - Look for figurative language and sound devices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦Alliteration - ◦Assonance - ◦Consonance - ◦Onomatopoeia - ◦Simile - ◦Metaphor - ◦Personification - ◦Allusion - ◦Symbolism -
<p>5 Ma says, “Bay, it hasn't rained enough to grow wheat in three years.”</p>	<p>Understanding - what do you think it all means?</p>
<p>6 Daddy looks like a fight brewing. He takes that red face of his out to the barn, to keep from feuding with my pregnant ma.</p>	<p>Positioning - look at the graphic elements in the poem.</p> <p>Capitalization -</p> <p>Punctuation -</p> <p>Line breaks -</p> <p>Word position/White space -</p>
<p>7 I ask Ma how, after all this time, Daddy still believes in rain.</p>	
<p>8 “Well, it rains enough,” Ma says, “now and again, to keep a person hoping. But even if it didn't your daddy would have to believe. It's coming on spring, and he's a farmer.”</p>	