“Eleven” by Sandra Cisneros

Close Reading

- READ THE STORY READING FOR VOCABULARY

WORDBUSTING (CSSS)

Identify and highlight the following vocabulary words:

**rattling, raggedy, itchy, invisible**

Design a chart that shows the context, structure, sentence, and definition for each word.

**context** - What does the word mean in context of the sentence?

**structure** - Write the word with syllable breaks.

**sentence** - Write the word in your own sentence.

**definition** - Look up the word in the dictionary and write the definition

- REREAD THE STORY FOR MAIN EVENTS

Design a flow map showing the main events from the story. Highlight the conflict (green) and the climax of the story (red).

- REREAD THE STORY FOR LANGUAGE

**Figurative Language** Read this simile from “Eleven”:

“But when the sick feeling goes away and I open my eyes, the red sweater’s still sitting there like a big red mountain.”

Remember that a **simile** is a comparison of unlike things that uses a comparing word such as *like, as, than, or resembles*. A **metaphor** is another example of figurative language, but unlike a simile, it compares unlike things without using any comparison words. A metaphor says that something *is* something else: The ugly red sweater *is a mountain, casting its shadow of disappointment over my birthday.*

Come up with four of your own figurative descriptions of the sweater in “Eleven.” Write two of them as similes and two as metaphor.
• REREAD THE STORY FOR WRITING A WRITTEN RESPONSE

o From what **point of view** is the story told? Be specific.

o Explain how the author’s **word choice** develops the point of view. (using details from text w/ citations)

**Possible writing (notebook) responses/collaborative group questions:**

o What does Rachel mean when she says about birthdays, “what they never tell you is that when you’re eleven, you’re also ten, and nine, and eight, and seven, and six...”?

o List some of the **similes** that Rachel uses to describe what being “eleven years old” is like. What other **similes** and **images** does she use to describe herself and the way she feels?

o How is Rachel **characterized**? Use adjectives to **describe** her along with **evidence** to support your description.

o Explain what happens with Rachel and the red sweater.

o How old does Rachel wish she was? Why?