

## “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 metaphors.

- **REREAD THE STORY FOR WRITING A WRITTEN RESPONSE**

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

- 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...”?
- 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?
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- How is Rachel **characterized**? Use adjectives to **describe** her along with **evidence** to support your description.
- Explain what happens with Rachel and the red sweater.
- How old does Rachel wish she was? Why?