**“Ode to Family Photographs,”** by Gary Soto

**Close Reading**

* **READ THE STORY READING FOR VOCABULARY**

**WORDBUSTING (CSSS)**

Identify and highlight the following vocabulary words:

**ode, snapshots, blurry, smeared**

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***

* **READ THE POEM READING FOR IMAGES**

The poem is an ode written in free verse with stanzas and lines of varying lengths. An ode is a poem of celebration. Read the poem and keep a list of observations that the author makes about each family photograph. Note the subjects and the details for the ode, any images the author uses to appeal to the senses, and write any questions about the observations that you have.

* **READ THE POEM READING FOR MOOD**

MOOD: Atmosphere, state of mind.

The Dictionary of Literary Terms by Martin Gray (Longman/York Press 1996, ISBN )-582-08037-1) gives the following for Mood:

“Mood, a term used synonymously with atmosphere to indicate in a literary work the prevailing feeling or frame of mind, especially at the start of a play, poem, or novel, creating a sense of expectation for what is to follow.”

**Some adjectives to describe MOOD:**

Fictional, imaginary, fanciful, idealistic, romantic, realistic, optimistic, pessimistic, gloomy, mournful, sorrowful.

Notice line by line details that point you to the mood in the poem. Design a circle map with words and details from the poem which point to the mood.

* **REREAD THE POEM FOR WRITING A WRITTEN RESPONSE**

1. Write an ode to something you celebrate. Choose your words (especially adjectives) and description careful so that they meaning you convey can be identified by the author.
2. Bring in a photograph that is especially memorable to you. Using Soto’s poem as a model, write a poem that identifies details about the photograph. The poem does not need to be an ode, but should focus on word choice to convey meaning.
3. Use the organizer provided to compare and contrast ***Eleven*** ***with Ode to Family Photographs.*** Pay close attention to the language in each piece and the author’s purpose in writing. From the organizer, create an essay that compares and contrasts the two pieces.