Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Poetry Analysis: “Sestina” by Elizabeth Bishop**

**Part I: Structure –Just as “tri” means three and “quad” means four, the Latin root “ses” stands for a number…**

1. Look carefully at this poem. Notice that the last stanza is shorter than the others.
   1. There are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stanzas. In each of the longer stanzas, there are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lines. Therefore, I think that the Latin root “ses” stands for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Circle the last word of each line of the **first six stanzas**.
   1. List the end words here \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Look carefully for a **pattern** in the use of these nouns, paying special attention to the first and last lines of each stanza. What is the pattern? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Look carefully at the **last (seventh) stanza**.
   1. What is different about this stanza? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Circle the last word of each line in this stanza and write them here \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. Are the other words from your list in Question 2a also present in these lines? If so, circle them as well and write them here \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Two of the six repeated nouns in this poem have to do with people.
   1. What are the nouns that have to do with people? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. There is a generation missing between these two people. What is it? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Answer each question below, and write the number of the line that contains the evidence for your answer.**

1. What time of year is it? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What time of day? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe the weather? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the grandmother hiding? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 2: *Setting* (time and place) is often used to represent or reflect the mood, tone, topic, or theme of a poem or other piece of writing. Think about how the season, time of day, and weather in this poem are related to what the grandmother is hiding.**

1. Complete the following paragraph by filling in the blanks with appropriate words.

The action in the first stanza takes place beside the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*object*) in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*room*). These words might make a reader feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*adjective - feeling*) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*another “feeling” adjective*). But the word at the end of the stanza, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*noun*), creates a different feeling in the reader, a feeling of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (“*feeling” noun*). And this emotion is increased by the broader setting, for the action takes place in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*time of day*) during the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*season*), while it is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*weather condition*) outside.

1. Who or what seems to be shedding tears or seems to be like tears in each of the stanzas?

Stanza 1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Stanza 5 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Stanza 2 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Stanza 6 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Stanza 3 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Stanza 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Stanza 4 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Complete the paragraph below to explain more about the **mood** of this poem:

Both the grandmother and the child are trying to stay cheerful. The grandmother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*paraphrased evidence from the poem about what the grandmother does to stay or seem cheerful*) and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*more paraphrased evidence from the poem about the cheerful things the grandmother does*). Inside, however, she is shedding \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*noun*). The child sees \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*noun*) in everything, from the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” (*direct evidence*) to the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*direct evidence*).” This family is feeling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*feeling*), so \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*same* *feeling*) that it seems to them that every object in their environment shares that emotion. No warmth from the stove or tea, no laughter nor tidying up from the grandmother, can take away the pain.

1. In line 29, the child draws a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in front of the house. Who might this be? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. The following questions are about **almanacs**. If you don’t know what one is, look it up!
   1. How often is an almanac published? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. What is its purpose? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Explain in 2-3 sentences how an almanac is related to the repetition of life. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3: A *sestina* is a poem with six stanzas, each consisting of six lines, and a final three-line stanza (*tercet*) that “sums up” the main idea of the poem. The last word of a stanza is the first end-word of the next stanza. All six end-words in the first stanza are repeated in a different order at the ends of the lines in each of the other stanzas. All six end-words are also used in the tercet.**

1. Explain in a short paragraph how the repetition in a sestina is related to the cyclical nature of life.
2. What abstract idea (**theme**) is Elizabeth Bishops sestina about? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the speaker’s attitude toward that idea (**tone**)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_