**T:** A love poem. Referring to a symbol of the speaker’s feelings? A woman’s name. Connotation is usually positive for Valentine’s Day.

P: Stanza 1: Not a typical valentine like a red rose or a heart.

Stanza 2: Here’s an onion. It’s white on the inside and brown on the outside. It’s bright like love.

Stanza 3: It’ll make you cry like someone you love. It will ruin your reflection and make you sad.

Stanza 4: I’m just being honest.

Stanza 5: This isn’t a nice valentine.

Stanza 6: Here’s an onion. You won’t be able to forget its flavor easily. Like a person, the onion owns you forever.

Stanza7: Take it, it’s yours. It symbolizes a wedding ring, if you want. But it’s deadly. And it will stick with you.

**5 C: Identify it, quote it, and explain it!**

1. Connotation of the word “onion” (2). Onions are bitter and smelly, strong and hard to ignore—contributes to the tone of the poem—bitter.
2. Personification and simile: “like the careful undressing of love” (5). Comparing an onion to the vulnerability of being in a relationship with another person helps support the theme of something about love for sure.
3. Parallelism: “Not a red rose or a satin heart/I give you an onion” and “Not a cute card or kissogram/I give you an onion” (1-2, 12-13). Debunks the myths of what society thinks love is.
4. Metaphor: “It is a moon wrapped in brown paper” (3). Comparing onion to moon makes it sounds so much prettier than an onion—love isn’t all pretty all the time, some of the time it is.
5. Simile: “It will blind you with tears/like a lover” (7-8). Love causes tears sometimes—possible theme connection.
6. Connotation: “Lethal/Its scent will cling to your fingers,/cling to your knife” (21-23). Love is deadly or can be—destructive—theme.

**3 A:** Bitter. “blind you with tears” (7). “it will make your reflection a wobbling photo of grief” (9-10). “fierce” (14). “lethal” (21). “knife” (23).

**S:** Line 19 “take it” shifts to command (imperative sentence) from declarative. It’s also a new stanza. Line 21 “lethal” shifts to a more severe tone and end result.

T: This poem is a poem about how to symbolize love more honestly than a valentine. A valentine is not real love?

T: The poem is about love and things that represent love typically and things that don’t, like an onion. Love isn’t one dimensional; it has many sides to it, both positive and negative. Love contains multiple emotions. Love isn’t always sweet like Valentine candy.