

In Translation - Providing Context & Commentary

Introduction: The following document provides you with the pieces of evidence that are crucial and contributive to Acevedo's holistic intent of the poem: **to convey Xiomara's complex relationship with her mother, more specifically, her difficulty and unwillingness to concede to her mother's demands regarding her faith despite her respect and love for her.**

What is missing, however, is the context leading into each piece of evidence and the commentary that follows it.

Directions: Using the pieces of evidence provided below, complete the essay by providing the appropriate context to each piece of evidence **and** the commentary that discusses how each piece of evidence contributes to Acevedo's larger purpose. Listed below are a couple of suggestions:

- Make sure you provide the appropriate piece of context to each piece of evidence and make sure that your writing flows somewhat seamlessly; what this means is that you may need to add or subtract some words for it to make sense.
- Make sure you are using appropriate transitions between ideas, themes, paragraphs, etc. These transitions should look something like the following
 - *"The beginning of the poem starts with..."*
 - *"The poem begins with Acevedo employing..."*
 - *"The first stanza introduces..."*
 - *"Once the speaker realizes..."*
 - *"In the second stanza, Xiomara realizes..."*
 - *"As Acevedo transitions into the second stanza..."*
 - *"Toward the end of the poem..."*
 - *"At the conclusion of the poem..."*
 - *"Acevedo concludes her poem by..."*

- Once you've led into your evidence, analyze the significance of the evidence provided. Make sure your commentary is well-developed and ties the evidence in with Acevedo's larger purpose, **to depict Xiomara's difficulty and unwillingness to concede to her mother's demands regarding her faith despite her respect and love for her.**

An example has been provided for you below.

Evidence <i>*The evidence is already provided in chronological order for you.</i>	Lead-In to Evidence & Commentary (The Context) <i>*You should lead into your evidence with the appropriate context (who is saying it, who is being addressed, and where in the poem it takes place) and follow it with at least two sentences of well-developed commentary.</i> <i>Avoid leading into your commentary using "This shows"!</i>
Example: <i>My mouth cannot write you a white flag, it will never be a Bible verse.</i>	Acevedo begins the poem by having Xiomara directly address her mother: "My mouth cannot write you a white flag,/it will never be a Bible verse." By starting the poem off with several reasons as to what her mouth "cannot" and will "never" do, Acevedo immediately establishes Xiomara's blunt unwillingness to concede to her mother's incessant nagging, her inability to conform into the person her mother desperately wants her to be. Xiomara refers to her voice/opinion as her "mouth," suggesting an almost physical inability to conform to her mother's pleas. Also, by utilizing the term "white flag," Xiomara expresses that the tension between her mother's wishes and her own beliefs is almost akin to a war, and by giving into her mother's pressure and raising a "white flag", she would effectively be surrendering and compromising her own beliefs and values.

1. My mouth cannot be shaped into the apology you say both you and God deserve.	
2. And you want to make it seem it's my mouth's entire fault. Because it was hungry, and silent,	
3. but what about your mouth?	
4. And the words I never say are better left on my tongue since they would only have slammed against the closed door of your back.	
5. Your silence furnishes a dark house.	
6. But even at the risk of burning, the moth always seeks the light.	