

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## INTO THE DUPLEX – A POETIC FORM AND TRADITION BEGUN BY JERICHO BROWN

### POEM GUIDE & READER RESPONSES

**PART I. Read “Duplex” by Jericho Brown. Annotate where the poem makes you**



**think,**



**feel, and**



**know.**

Duplex

A poem is a gesture toward home.  
It makes dark demands I call my own.

Memory makes demands darker than my own:  
My last love drove a burgundy car.

My first love drove a burgundy car.  
He was fast and awful, tall as my father.

Steadfast and awful, my tall father  
Hit hard as a hailstorm. He'd leave marks.

Light rain hits easy but leaves its own mark  
Like the sound of a mother weeping again.

Like the sound of my mother weeping again,  
No sound beating ends where it began.

None of the beaten end up how we began.  
A poem is a gesture toward home.

*from Jericho Brown's  
The Tradition (Copper Canyon, 2019)*

**PART II. Using complete sentences, answer the following SOAPStone Questions for Written Analysis (J. Krajeck, 2012). Include textual evidence in your reader responses.**

**SPEAKER:** Who is the poem's speaker, or the voice who speaks to us in "Duplex"?

**OCCASION:** What is the time, place, and context of "Duplex"? Why does this speaker feel the need to create this poem?

**AUDIENCE:** Who does this speaker intend to speak to? What do you know about the audience who will hear or read this poem?

**PURPOSE:** Why do you think Jericho Brown wrote "Duplex"? In other words, what is the poem's purpose or exigence?

**SUBJECT:** What is "Duplex" about and how do you know its subject?

**TONE:** What is Jericho Brown's attitude toward the subject of "Duplex"? How is his tone conveyed in the language of the poem and his YouTube reading?