

The image features a series of horizontal watercolor paint swatches in various shades of blue and teal, ranging from light sky blue to deep, dark teal. The swatches are layered and have soft, feathered edges, creating a textured, artistic background. Centered over these swatches is the text "POETRY PAINT SWATCHES" in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

POETRY PAINT SWATCHES

DIRECTIONS

On top: describe why the color swatch symbolizes your poem. Include the title, author, and evidence from the text to support the color choice.

Color swatch squares:

1. A possible theme of this poem: “The speaker is trying to convey ___ through ___.”
2. “DIRECT LINES FROM THE POEM” that provide textual evidence for the theme (use complete sentences)
3. Response to poem: thoughts, feelings, and/or connections

"Everyone in the house." Not me, but relates personally because she was a kid that had to leave her belongings and family behind

MY MOTHER RETURNS TO HER CHILDHOOD HOME

By: Lena Khalaf Tuffaha

Why does this swatch symbolize this poem?	I think this swatch symbolizes this poem because this poem has a tone of <u>nostalgia</u> . But instead of it being a happy nostalgia, it's <u>bittersweet</u> because the narrator has left her home and will not be coming back to stay. She walks through her house, identifying all of the old possessions and how they have clearly been <u>abandoned</u> . She has a sad tone, talking about how she <u>misses</u> her home and was <u>forced out</u> .
Theme	I think that the narrator was trying to teach us to be <u>grateful</u> for your surroundings and current life because you can be <u>pulled away</u> from it very quickly.
Evidence	In this poem you can identify that the author is experiencing a feeling of <u>sadness</u> as she walks through her childhood home. "Each of us has a house elsewhere but here is someone we are all refugees..." (Stanza 4, Line 2-3) She tells us about how she is a <u>refugee</u> and how she had to <u>abandon</u> her home. Refugees are civilians that have to leave their home because of <u>war</u> , <u>religious persecution</u> , etc. It makes us realize that she was <u>forced</u> to leave her home in another country or even another continent. She is purposefully trying to evoke that <u>emotional</u> emotion from us to make us say, "I'm so glad I'm not in her position..." Hence, the theme of making us <u>grateful</u> .
Connection	Of course I am <u>not</u> a refugee like how the narrator is, but I feel like in the <u>future</u> I will probably go through a similar feeling. When you are leaving to college, it's a <u>big step</u> because you are leaving home, and most probably you <u>won't</u> be living at home anymore. I think about that <u>feeling</u> because I know the <u>second</u> I have to go to college I am <u>starting</u> a new life, leaving my old home behind and creating a new one. Even now when I see old <u>photos</u> of old houses I have lived in, it gives me that <u>bittersweet</u> feeling, because I know I <u>would</u> use them in the <u>future</u> anymore.