“Casey at the Bat” CISM

Essential Question: How does the poet use figurative language and poetic devices to help create mood and tone in a poem?

Part One: Vocabulary

Directions: On a sheet of computer paper, create a personal word wall for each of the following vocabulary words. In each box, include the definition, a picture or symbol you associate with the word, and a sentence that uses the word.

Pall – N. a dark cloud of smoke or dust

Stricken – Adj. seriously affected by an unpleasant condition

Multitude – N. a large number

Melancholy – N. sadness

Recoiled – V. suddenly flinch back in disgust

Doffed – V. removed

Writhing – V. make continual twisting, squirming movements

Haughty – Adj. arrogantly superior or disdainful

Grandeur – Adj. splendor and impressiveness

Unheeded – Adj. heard or noticed but ignored

Dell – N. a small valley

Visage – N. a person’s facial expressions

Tumult – N. confusion or disorder

Dun – N. a dull, grayish brown color

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| **Text** | **Text Margins** |
| The outlook wasn’t brilliant for the Mudville nine that day: | Stanza 1: |
| The score stood four to two, with but one inning more to play, |  |
| And then when Cooney died at first, and Barrows did the same, |  |
| A pall-like silence fell upon the patrons of the game. |  |
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| A straggling few got up to go in deep despair. The rest | Stanza 2: |
| Clung to the hope which springs eternal in the human breast; |  |
| They thought, “If only Casey could but get a whack at that— |  |
| We’d put up even money now, with Casey at the bat.” |  |
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| But Flynn preceded Casey, as did also Jimmy Blake, | Stanza 3: |
| And the former was a hoodoo, while the latter was a cake; |  |
| So upon that stricken multitude grim melancholy sat, |  |
| For there seemed but little chance of Casey getting to the bat. |  |
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| But Flynn let drive a single, to the wonderment of all, | Stanza 4: |
| And Blake, the much despisèd, tore the cover off the ball; |  |
| And when the dust had lifted, and men saw what had occurred, |  |
| There was Jimmy safe at second and Flynn a-hugging third. |  |
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| Then from five thousand throats and more there rose a lusty yell; | Stanza 5: |
| It rumbled through the valley, it rattled in the dell; |  |
| It pounded on the mountain and recoiled upon the flat, |  |
| For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat. |  |
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| There was ease in Casey’s manner as he stepped into his place; | Stanza 6: |
| There was pride in Casey’s bearing and a smile lit Casey’s face. |  |
| And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat, |  |
| No stranger in the crowd could doubt ‘twas Casey at the bat. |  |
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| Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt; | Stanza 7: |
| Five thousand tongues applauded when he wiped them on his shirt; |  |
| Then while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip, |  |
| Defiance flashed in Casey’s eye, a sneer curled Casey’s lip. |  |
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| And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air, | Stanza 8: |
| And Casey stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there. |  |
| Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped— |  |
| “That ain’t my style," said Casey. “Strike one!” the umpire said. |  |
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| From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar, | Stanza 9: |
| Like the beating of the storm-waves on a stern and distant shore; |  |
| “Kill him! Kill the umpire!” shouted someone on the stand; |  |
| And it’s likely they’d have killed him had not Casey raised his hand. |  |
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| With a smile of Christian charity great Casey’s visage shone; | Stanza 10: |
| He stilled the rising tumult; he bade the game go on; |  |
| He signaled to the pitcher, and once more the dun sphere flew; |  |
| But Casey still ignored it and the umpire said, “Strike two!” |  |
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| “Fraud!” cried the maddened thousands, and echo answered “Fraud!” | Stanza 11: |
| But one scornful look from Casey and the audience was awed. |  |
| They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain, |  |
| And they knew that Casey wouldn’t let that ball go by again. |  |
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| The sneer is gone from Casey’s lip, his teeth are clenched in hate, | Stanza 12: |
| He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate; |  |
| And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go, |  |
| And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey’s blow. |  |
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| Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright, | Stanza 13: |
| The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light; |  |
| And somewhere men are laughing, and somewhere children shout, |  |
| But there is no joy in Mudville—mighty Casey has struck out. |  |

Part Two: Guided Reading Questions

Directions: After you read the poem, answer the guided reading questions below. At the end of each question is the stanza in which you will find the answer. Write your answer in the right hand column beside the text, and underline the textual evidence you find in the text that supports your answer to each question.

1. What mood does the author suggest at the beginning of the poem (Stanza 1)
2. What evidence does the author give the reader to support that the team is disappointed with the game, but has not lost hope? (Stanza 2)
3. Did the fans have any confidence in Flynn and Jimmy? How do you know? (Stanza 3)
4. According to the details in the poem, how does the audience watching the game feel? (Stanza 5)
5. The author uses descriptive text throughout the poem to describe Casey and the game. How would you describe Casey’s character? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (Stanza 6)
6. What tone does the author suggest in this stanza? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (Stanza 7)
7. What important event happens in stanza eight? Why is it surprising?
8. How does the audience about the umpire’s call? Why? How is this different from the way that Casey feels? (Stanza 9)
9. What did the umpire call the second pitch? How do you think the audience will react to the call? (Stanza 10)
10. How does the author demonstrate that Casey has a powerful influence over the crowd? (Stanza 11)
11. How has Casey’s attitude changed now that he has two strikes? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (Stanza 12)
12. How does the author build excitement and anticipation up to this point? Use examples from the text to support your answer. (Stanza 13)
13. Label the exposition, inciting incident, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution of the poem.
14. Label the rhyme scheme of the poem beside each line.
15. What are the conflicts in "Casey at the Bat"? What types of conflict (physical, moral, intellectual, or emotional) do you recognize?

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1. What is the theme of the poem, “Casey at the Bat”  
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2. How does the mood change as the poem progresses from beginning to middle to end? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.  
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