

### I Am Offering this Poem

I am offering this poem to you,  
since I have nothing else to give.  
Keep it like a warm coat  
when winter comes to cover you,  
5 or like a pair of thick socks  
the cold cannot bite through,

I love you,

I have nothing else to give you,  
so it is a pot full of yellow corn  
10 to warm your belly in winter,  
it is a scarf for your head, to wear  
over your hair, to tie up around your face,

I love you,

Keep it, treasure this as you would  
15 if you were lost, needing direction,  
in the wilderness life becomes when mature;  
and in the corner of your drawer,  
tucked away like a cabin or hogan\*  
in dense trees, come knocking,  
20 and I will answer, give you directions,  
and let you warm yourself by this fire,  
rest by this fire, and make you feel safe

I love you,

It's all I have to give,  
25 and all anyone needs to live,  
and to go on living inside,  
when the world outside  
no longer cares if you live or die;  
remember,

30 I love you.

\*hogan: wooden hut/shelter

Jimmy Santiago Baca

#### Answer both 3.1 and 3.2.

You are advised to spend about 20 minutes on 3.1 and about 40 minutes on 3.2

Read the two poems, *I am Offering this Poem* by Jimmy Santiago Baca and *The Sun has Burst the Sky* by Jenny Joseph. Both poems are about feelings of love.

#### 3.1. Write about the poem *I am Offering this Poem* by Jimmy Santiago Baca, and its effect on you. [15]

You may wish to consider: • what the poem is about and how it is organised • the ideas the poet may have wanted us to think about • the poet's choice of words, phrases and images and the effects they create • how you respond to the poem

### The sun has burst the sky

The sun has burst the sky  
Because I love you  
And the river its banks.

5 The sea laps the great rocks  
Because I love you  
And takes no heed of the moon dragging it away  
And saying coldly 'Constancy is not for you'.

10 The blackbird fills the air  
Because I love you  
With spring and lawns and shadows falling on lawns.

The people walk in the street and laugh  
I love you  
And far down the river ships sound their hooters  
Crazy with joy because I love you.

Jenny Joseph

### 3.2. Now compare *I am Offering this Poem* by Jimmy Santiago Baca and *The Sun has Burst the Sky* by Jenny Joseph. [25]

You should compare:

- what the poems are about and how they are organised
- the ideas the poets may have wanted us to think about
- the poets' choice of words, phrases and images and the effects they create
- how you respond to the poems