**In the Corners of Fields**
By Ted Kooser

**So This Is Nebraska**
By Ted Kooser b. 1939 Ted Kooser

The gravel road rides with a slow gallop
over the fields, the telephone lines
streaming behind, its billow of dust
full of the sparks of redwing blackbirds.

On either side, those dear old ladies,
the loosening barns, their little windows
dulled by cataracts of hay and cobwebs
hide broken tractors under their skirts.

So this is Nebraska. A Sunday
afternoon; July. Driving along
with your hand out squeezing the air,
a meadowlark waiting on every post.

Behind a shelterbelt of cedars,
top-deep in hollyhocks, pollen and bees,
a pickup kicks its fenders off
and settles back to read the clouds.

You feel like that; you feel like letting
your tires go flat, like letting the mice
build a nest in your muffler, like being
no more than a truck in the weeds,

clucking with chickens or sticky with honey
or holding a skinny old man in your lap
while he watches the road, waiting
for someone to wave to. You feel like

waving. You feel like stopping the car
and dancing around on the road. You wave
instead and leave your hand out gliding
lark-like over the wheat, over the houses.

Something is calling to me
from the corners of fields,
where the leftover fence wire
suns its loose coils, and stones
thrown out of the furrow
sleep in warm litters;
where the gray faces
of old No Hunting signs
mutter into the wind,
and dry horse tanks
spout fountains of sunflowers;
where a moth
flutters in from the pasture,
harried by sparrows,
and alights on a post,
so sure of its life
that it peacefully opens its wings.

🡪 Think about places that have meant something to you. Where have you been? Think of a great memory and focus on the PLACE.

**Examples:**A road trip somewhere in Omaha
 pool vacation
 hunting trip where you feel most comfortable
 camp church
 zoo relative/friend’s house

**Write a poem (10+ lines) that uses all five senses to describe your place; help the reader understand why this place is so special to you, to experience it themselves.** Remember a poem should have line breaks and look like a poem.

1. Define any unfamiliar words and write their down their definition.

2. Does the poem rhyme?
\_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_No

2. Find and label two examples of personification.

3. Find and label two similes.

4. What connotations (thoughts, feelings, ideas) come to mind at each starred line? Write down a few words.

5. What is the tone of this poem? Choose at least 2 words from our tone wall.
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6. Put a star by at least 3 lines that help support your tone.

7. Kooser uses a lot of personification. Look at the examples you labeled. How do these images strengthen the tone? Explain below in a few sentences.
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