

YOUR NAME _____

ENGLISH, CLASS _____

September 18, 2024

SAMUELS

Do Now: Please copy poem into notebooks

Objective: To note-take on structure, mood, tone, and message for the poem below.

Nani

Alberto Ríos

1952 –

Sitting at her table, she serves
the *sopa de arroz* to me
instinctively, and I watch her,
the absolute mamá, and eat words
I might have had to say more
out of embarrassment. To speak,
now-foreign words I used to speak,
too, dribble down her mouth as she serves
me *albóndigas*. No more
than a third are easy to me.
By the stove she does something with words
and looks at me only with her
back. I am full. I tell her
I taste the mint, and watch her speak
smiles at the stove. All my words
make her smile. Nani never serves
herself, she only watches me
with her skin, her hair. I ask for more.

I watch the mamá warming more
tortillas for me. I watch her
fingers in the flame for me.
Near her mouth, I see a wrinkle speak
of a man whose body serves
the ants like she serves me, then more words
from more wrinkles about children, words
about this and that, flowing more
easily from these other mouths. Each serves

as a tremendous string around her,
holding her together. They speak
Nani was this and that to me
and I wonder just how much of me
will die with her, what were the words
I could have been, was. Her insides speak
through a hundred wrinkles, now, more
than she can bear, steel around her,
shouting, then, What is this thing she serves?

She asks me if I want more.
I own no words to stop her.
Even before I speak, she serves.

(Structure and Form)

'Nani' by Alberto Ríos is a three-stanza poem that is separated into uneven sets of lines. The first and second [stanzas](#) contain eighteen lines, and the third has only three. The poem is written in [free verse](#). This means that the lines do not follow a specific [rhyme scheme](#). Despite this, there are examples of [rhyme](#) in the lines. For instance, the [exact rhyme](#) between "speak" and "speak" in the first stanza. "More" is also [repeated](#) between the last line of stanza one and the first line of stanza two.

(Literary Devices)

- [Imagery](#): can be seen when the poet creates especially effective and interesting descriptions. For example, "I tell her / I taste the mint, and watch her speak / smiles at the stove."
- [Alliteration](#): occurs when the poet [repeats](#) the same consonant sound at the beginning of words. For example, "might" and

“more” in line five of the first stanza and “mamá” and “more” in line one of stanza two

Describe Poem's Tone (What author thinks, feels, believes)	Describe Poem's Mood (The feeling writer creates for the reader)	What is the poem about? (Message)