**Bless Me, Ultima – Formal Poetry Assignment**

Sandra Cisneros

“Abuelito Who”

Abuelito who throws coins like rain

and asks who loves him

who is dough and feathers

who is a watch and glass of water

whose hair is made of fur

is too sad to come downstairs today

who tells me in Spanish you are my diamond

who tells me in English you are my sky

whose little eyes are string

can't come out to play

sleeps in his little room all night and day

who used to laugh like the letter k

is sick

is a doorknob tied to a sour stick

is tired, shut the door

doesn't live here anymore

is hiding underneath the bed

who talks to me inside my head

is blankets and spoons and big brown shoes

who snores up and down up and down up and down again

is the rain on the room that falls like coins

asking who loves him

who loves him who?

Like Bless Me, Ultima, this poem by Sandra Cisneros is about family, devotion, and

change. In it, she uses similes and metaphors to capture the character of her

grandfather, who changes from a man “who throws coins like rain and asks who loves him” to one who “is sick” and “is the rain on the room that falls like coins / asking who loves him / who loves him who?”

**Directions**

**1. Choose a character from Bless Me, Ultima.**

**2. Make a list of objects and images associated with this character.**

**3. Using “Abuelito Who” as a model, write a poem about this character.**

**4. Be sure that the poem conveys the character’s most essential traits.**

**5. Your poem should be 23 lines long and should follow the pattern of the original work, including the title. I especially want you to keep all the who and is words in the same place.**

**6. Review and revise your poem, then recopy it neatly to turn in.**

**Some suggestions for characters: Antonio, Ultima, Gabriel, Narciso, Tenorio, Florence (though you may choose any character in the book.)**