

## An analysis of “Calculations” by Brenda Cárdenas

I pair this poem with “My Papa’s Waltz” by Theodore Roethke. After discussing “My Papa’s Waltz,” we analyze “Calculations” with these guided questions. I break the class into small groups and have them meet for ten minutes, then we reconvene and discuss their responses.

After the discussion, I give the class five minutes to write a response to the closing prompt. I invite students to share their responses.

### Group Questions “Calculations” by Brenda Cárdenas \*

Every group will discuss the following three questions:

- Annotate the poem together. Isolate any words you aren’t familiar with and any imagery that stands out to you. Do you have any questions about the poem?
- The poem is a bilingual poem. Why do you think the poet wrote this in two languages, and does this impact your view of the poem?
- Do you see any similarities between the two poems? Do they use similar literary devices? Do they share a common theme?

### Closing Prompt:

Did the class discussion change your view of the poem(s)? Also do you prefer one poem to the other? Why?

\*questions based on prompts from Academy of American Poets