

Details of Los Jardines del Humaya Cemetery

Directions: Watch the video clip from the documentary **El Velador (The Night Watchman)** to experience what it is like at Los Jardines del Humaya, a cemetery in Mexico where many drug traffickers and notorious drug lords are interred. Then record details about the cemetery in the chart below.

What does this place (or what do the people or objects in this place)...	Notes
Look like?	
Sound like?	
Probably smell like?	
Probably feel like?	
Probably taste like? (if applicable)	
Probably feel inside?	

Two Poems by Dolores Dorantes

Directions: The cemetery Los Jardines del Humaya, located in the Mexican state of Sinaloa, inspired Dolores Dorantes to capture related sensory details and feelings in the two poems featured here. Read each poem, consider the details you noted about the cemetery while watching part of the film **El Velador (The Night Watchman)** and respond to the questions below.

This is an image of love though it might seem to be the image of a dead person. We drive with dirt on top of the glass, with the sun cutting across the dirt we drive. We arrive when everyone disappears. We defend nothing. We defend it from no one. They have hired us to remain standing in this silence. Someone is building a city. A beautiful city that is going up in the country. Living cupolas inside its body. We keep watch. We protect it from no one. Someone gives us money to keep our eyes open in the middle of this night. Something keeps us awake when the wind strolls the sound of a band. A box of music and of mourning. Of fiesta and of silence.

1. Why do you think Dorantes calls the image of a dead person, “an image of love?”
 2. Who does “we” represent in this poem? How do you know?
 3. Dorantes calls the cemetery, “a beautiful city?” In what ways is the cemetery like a city? In what ways is it different?
 4. What is the “box” referenced in the poem?
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A clean woman takes off her shoes before opening this city. And before setting foot in this city she lets the water run. Below is the sea: water and blood. Perfection and pain. We don't see. We don't speak. We are not the witnesses. The witness is a saint dressed in green where the woman leaves her love. The city at this hour ripples with all its colors. This city sprouts. The city awakens and shakes its dead person's heart. It greets us and shakes it like a rattle.

1. Why do you think Dorantes describes the woman as “clean?”
 2. What does “this city” represent?
 3. On which specific details of the cemetery does the poet focus?
 4. What do you think is the message of this poem?
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What title would you give to each of these poems? Why?

Pre-writing Exercises: Sensory Details and Feelings

Directions: Choose a place in your community that you know well and record details about it in the chart below. You may find it helpful to describe one specific experience or activity related to your chosen location to narrow things down. Then, draw a picture of your place on the back of this page. You will then be ready to write a draft of a poem below.

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Look like?	
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Draft Poem: