

Directions: Read and annotate the poem with your thinking job in mind.

HEAVY HEART

My head is a blur,
racing at escape velocity,
the speed needed
to “break free”
from gravity.

Before bed, I open the shutters.

I need the expanse
of space
to empty my heart.

Earth and its atmosphere
cannot contain
my sadness

for America

for Grandpa Bob and Nana
for Mom

Thinking Job:

As you read the poem,
determine the recurring
motif.



“Heavy Heart” from *Somewhere Among*
by Annie Donwerth-Chikamatsu.

Directions: Use the poem to complete the work below.

1. Circle the words that relate to the recurring motif in the poem.
2. Jot words in the box below that express the emotions the narrator is feeling in this poem.

3. Which line from the poem best describes what the narrator hopes to accomplish in writing this poem?

- a “to ‘break free’ from gravity”
 c “for America; for Grandpa Bob and Nana; for Mom”
 b “to empty my heart”
 d “[to] open the shutters”

4. What is the narrator’s relationship to outer space? Write your response in the lines below.
