

## Worksheet 5. Hopi Poetry Analysis

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Hopi culture and its people are deeply connected to the environment of the dry mesas in Northern Arizona. Corn farming is an important part of this connection because in order to grow corn in a dry environment with a short growing season farmers have to have a full knowledge of their crops, fields, and the weather.

Hopi people grow six types of corn, which have different purposes: white, blue, yellow, red, purple, and sweet corn. Hopi people sometimes use the figurative language to describe the importance of corn in their culture (i.e., “corn is life” and “corn are our children.”)

As you read and analyze your assigned poem by Hopi poet and artist Ramson Lomatewama, notice the ways Lomatewama’s language describes individual places as well as his larger environment. In addition, notice how he also describes his close relationship to corn.

### Directions:

**Step 1. Read** your poem aloud.

**Step 2. Read** it again to yourself, **circle** important words or characters that explain what is happening.

**Step 3. Underline** examples of figurative language.

**Step 4. Answer** the following questions.

Poem title \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is happening in your poem?

***Language of Place: Hopi Place Names, Poetry, Traditional Dance and Song***

2. List examples of figurative language from your text and explain their meanings.

3. How does this poem describe the place Lomatewama lives in?

4. How does this poem describe corn or Lomatewama's relationship to corn?

5. Make a sketch that depicts the details present in the poem.