

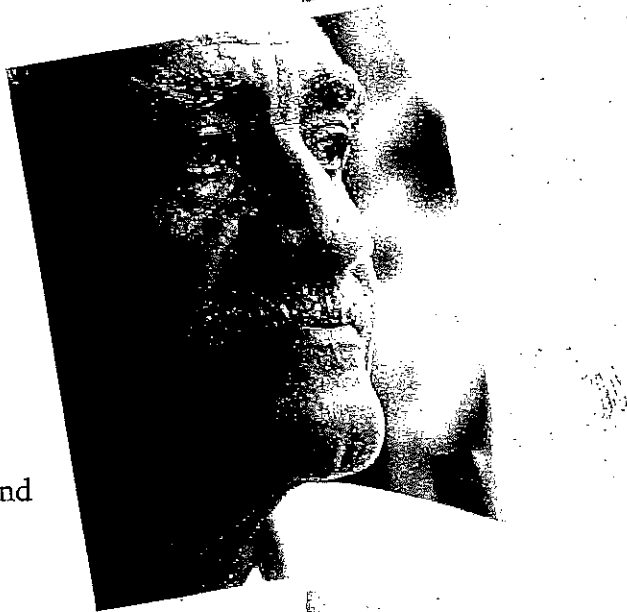
Before You Read

“Abuelito Who” is a collection of memories of the poet’s grandfather. *Abuelito* (ä·bwā·lē’tō) is Spanish for “granddaddy.” Read the poem aloud twice.

Abuelito Who

Sandra Cisneros

Abuelito who throws coins like rain
and asks who loves him
who is dough and feathers
who is a watch and glass of water
5 whose hair is made of fur
is too sad to come downstairs today ❶
who tells me in Spanish you are my diamond
who tells me in English you are my sky
whose little eyes are string
10 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
15 is tired shut the door
doesn’t live here anymore
is hiding underneath the bed ❷
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
20 again
is the rain on the roof that falls like coins
asking who loves him
who loves him who? ❸



Author Study

Sandra Cisneros

IDENTIFY

❶ In lines 1–5, what details describe the speaker’s *abuelito*? What new information about her grandfather do we learn in line 6?

INFER

❷ How has the speaker’s grandfather changed? What do you think has brought about this change?

INFER

❸ How do you think the speaker would answer the question asked in lines 22–23?