

9TH GRADE HUMANITIES

Unit: Social Justice and
Figurative Language in Latino
Literature



Identifying Figurative Language:

Do Now

Name: _____

Date: _____

Section: _____

Nancy Mercado is a poet from Atlantic City, New Jersey. She moved to Manhattan, NY after completing her studies in history, Puerto Rican Studies, and Liberal Studies. Her poetry tends to focus on her love for New York City and her Latino identity, among other topics.



Photo courtesy of Hunter College.

Directions: Read Nancy Mercado's *Going to Work* below. The poem describes the atmosphere of New York City after the World Trade Center was attacked on September 11, 2001. Then use your understanding of the poem to complete the questions that follow. Each of your answers should be 3-4 sentences.

Going To Work

On their daily trips
Commuters shed tears now
Use American flags
Like veiled women
To hide their sorrows
Rush to buy throwaway cameras
To capture your twin ghosts
Frantically I too
Purchase your memory
On post cards & coffee mugs
In New York City souvenir shops

Afraid I'll forget your façade
Forget my hallowed Sunday
Morning Path Train rides
My subway travels through
The center of your belly
Afraid I'll forget your power
To transform helicopters
Into ladybugs gliding in the air
To turn New York City
Into a breathing map
To display the curvature
Of our world

Main Idea: *How does Mercado portray her and other New York commuters' feelings about what happened on September 11, 2011? Choose one phrase from the poem that serves as evidence of your answer.*

Figurative Language: *Choose a phrase from the poem that represents a metaphor, simile, or personification and explain why you think the selected phrase is an example. If you cannot identify any, take an educated guess.*
