

Figure 1. ELA compare and contrast poem

Thank You, Ma'am, a Poem of Two Characters

Eleven o'clock at night
We meet
On the street.

I am Mrs. Luella Bates
Washington Jones.

I am the victim,
but I grab Roger.
I want to teach this teen
a lesson.
Prepare him a meal.

In my home.

I want to be there
For him.

When I was young
I wanted things
I could not get.
And so I snatched
people's pocketbooks.

In my boarding house.
I leave my purse near the
boy as I go to the kitchen.

I want him to see he is
Trusted.

We share a meal.
I give him
\$10 for blue suede shoes.

A lesson was passed on.

Eleven o'clock at night
We meet
On the street.

I am Roger.
I try to grab her purse.

I go with her, there is no one.
In my home.
No one is there.

For me.

I want things
I cannot get.
And so I snatch
people's pocketbooks.

I offer to go to the store.

I want to be
Trusted.

We share a meal.
She gives me
\$10 for blue suede shoes.
All I had to do was ask
"Thank you, Ma'am."

A lesson was passed on.