**Essay analysis: “Chicken Hips” by Catherine Pigott** Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

English 11

**Purpose:**

1. A *theme* is the central idea or insight of a work. It has certain principles it must follow:
2. it must be a general statement about life
3. it must be a complete sentence
4. it must be an original statement (*not* be a cliché)
5. it must be the central and unifying concept of a work (and not be contradicted by anything in the work)
6. there is no *one* correct way of stating theme
7. it must not be larger (broader) than is justified by the work.

In your own words, and in a complete sentence, state a possible theme of “Chicken Hips.” (5)

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**Stylistic Techniques**

1. Why can “Chicken Hips” be considered a narrative essay? (1)

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1. What aspects of the narration in the essay support the theme you wrote? (2)

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1. How does the author also use comparison/contrast in her essay? (1)

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1. *Rhetorical devices* are techniques that authors use to make their writing more effective, and sometimes to persuade readers. Find examples of each of the following rhetorical devices in the essay. If you don’t know a term, look it up, or ask a partner or Ms. Hamilton.
2. Imagery

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1. Onomatopoeia

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1. Alliteration

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1. Metaphor

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1. Simile

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1. Irony (explain in your own words)

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1. Symbolism

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**Language**

1. Pigott obviously prefers the Gambian ideal of beauty to the Canadian. Quote words or phrases from the essay that convey Pigott’s view of each ideal, and explain how they do so. (4)

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**Thinking Beyond**

1. From what you know of Africa and North America, what are some reasons beauty ideals might be different in these places? Discuss with a partner and record your ideas.

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