Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
“Big Joe’s Funeral” Part 1 Team: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

“Big Joe’s Funeral” is a short story from a collection of stories written by Walter Dean Myers. He writes stories about his hometown, Harlem, NY and the people who live there. (Have you heard of Harlem? Do you know where it is?)

This story focuses on a man who has some strange ideas about making and keeping friends. As you read, think about the way Myers describes

the neighborhood  
the people who live there  
how all the characters behave  
how characters react to one another

Things to keep in mind while reading:

Is 145th Street anything like the neighborhood in which you live?   
Are the people there anything like the people with whom you spend your time?

**Written Reflection: TO BE COMPLETED ON LOOSE LEAF PAPER  
Part 1**: Think about the neighborhood in which you live. Choose three words to describe the neighborhood. For each word, write two or three sentences that explain why that word is a good description of your neighborhood. Use the example as your guide.

EXAMPLE:

Welcoming

My neighborhood is welcoming because everyone comes together to have a fun, no matter how old they are or for how long they’ve lived there. For example, during the hurricane last month, a bunch of families got together at our neighbor’s house and we played board games, charades and ping-pong for hours!

**Part 2:** Think about the street upon which you live. Can you think of a person who lives on your street—one who is not a member of your family—that has some strange personality traits? Without using their name, describe the person in three or four sentences below. An example has been done for you.

EXAMPLE:

There’s a woman who lives on my block that has at least a dozen dogs. They are all different breeds and sizes. She walks them all at the same time, with a dozen different leashes, and refers to them all by name, repeatedly. She reminds me of the house in that movie UP. The dogs are like balloons and they pull her all over the place!