**A Song for West Virginia**

Guided Reading Questions

1. Look at line 4. “Antithesis” is the pairing of opposites for effect. How does Harshman use antithesis in line 4?
2. What is the metaphor in line 4 and what does it mean?
3. What war is Harshman referencing in lines 5-9?
4. Look at lines 14-20. Who is Harshman remembering?
5. Read closely lines 16-17. What you think Harshman is alluding to?
6. In line 21 the phrase “We mourn the roads not taken…” is an allusion to what famous American poet?
7. List any of the allusions that you recognize in lines 30-35.
8. Read lines 52-53. What folktale is Harshman referencing?
9. Read lines 54-59. Choose 1 of the historical figures mentioned and tell me their story.
10. In lines 75-80 Harshman references rivers. What do you think he means by “sing those liquid notes of rivers?”
11. Harshman calls West Virginia’s history “a quilt” several times. Why? Why are quilts important to West Virginia culture?
12. What president is mentioned in lines 102-105?
13. After reading the whole poem, why do you think this is called “A Song for West Virginia?” What are some of the connotations of the word “song?”
14. If you could ask Harshman one question about this poem, what would you ask him?
15. Both this poem and the novel we are reading focus on how place has influenced identity. In the novel, Junior is the person he is because he grew on the reservation. How has living in West Virginia influenced your identity? Answer in 2-3 **good** sentences!!