

Problems With Hurricanes

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- 1 A campesino looked at the air
And told me:
With hurricanes it's not the wind
or the noise or the water.
I'll tell you he said:
it's the mangoes, avocados
Green plantains and bananas
flying into town like projectiles.
- 9 How would your family
feel if they had to tell
The generations that you
got killed by a flying
Banana?
- 14 Death by drowning has honour
if the wind picked you up
and slammed you
against a mountain boulder.
- This would not carry shame
But
to suffer a mango smashing
Your skull
or a plantain hitting your
Temple at 70 miles per hour
is the ultimate disgrace.
- 25 The campesino takes off his hat –
As a sign of respect
towards the fury of the wind
And says:
Don't worry about the noise
Don't worry about the water
Don't worry about the wind –
If you are going out,
beware of the mangoes
and all such beautiful
sweet things.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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- 1 The word “*campesino*” in the first line means ‘peasant farmer’. Why do you think the poet didn’t just write ‘peasant farmer’?

- 2 What does the campesino think the poet would be frightened of in a hurricane?

- 3 **Find and copy** the names of **three** fruit mentioned as being dangerous.

- 4 “*flying into town like projectiles*”

Which word is closest in meaning to the word “*projectiles*” in this sentence? Tick **one**.

bullets people being ill

long distances school projects

- 5 How do you think a family would feel if they were told that their relative had been killed by a flying banana?

- 6 If “*a plantain hitting your/Temple at 70 miles per hour/is the ultimate disgrace*”, what does the poet think is a better way to be killed?

- 7 **Find and copy two** phrases or sentences that explain how strong the wind is. Choose examples from **two** different verses.

- 8 How do the last two lines of the poem contrast with what has been said before about fruit?

Use quotations from the poem in your answer.

- 9 Which of the following statements is the best summary of the main idea of the poem? Tick **one**.

Hurricanes are dangerous.

People can be killed in funny ways.

There are many ways to be killed.

You can get hurt by unexpected things.

2g

1 mark

2d

1 mark

2b

1 mark

2a

1 mark

2d

1 mark

2b

1 mark

2a

2 marks

2f

1 mark

2c

1 mark