

Problems With Hurricanes

Victor Hernández Cruz

- 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:
--------------	---------------	--------------

- 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