“Dancing with Strom” Guiding Questions

1. Strom Thurmond blatantly makes a racist remark here; does racism still exist? Are these thoughts accepted by society? If not, and racism still exists, why does it?

2. What great achievement is Lincoln known for during his presidency?

3. Circle words that connote the celebration is jovial.

4. What can be inferred about the speaker of the poem through the shaded line?

5. What does the speaker mean by the shaded text?

6. How do you characterize a submarine? Why does the author choose to conjure up this imagery?

7. Underline the colors in this stanza. Choose one to paraphrase/explain in your own words.

8. What two images does the author illustrate in this stanza that is opposite of each other? What is the author trying to show?

9. How do people use porches today?

10. Highlight imagery about porches that sticks out to you. Explain why it is memorable to you.

11. To what earlier in the poem is the author referring?

12. What generalization can you make about the dreams the speaker has for the world?

13. Summarize the speaker’s opinion of Strom and the wedding?

14. How similar or different is this poem to “Red Velvet” when it comes to the theme of perseverance and social change?

15. How are Black party attendants described? Is the speaker taking part in this behavior? Explain.

16. Who do you suppose Uncle Freddie to be?

17. How does this reference to the historical education of Blacks affect perception in today’s world?