“The Aureole” is located in the middle section of her text *Head off & Split* which serves to inform readers that this is part of her personal poetry collection in which she highlights her coming-of-age through intimate vignettes. The term ‘aureole’, according to the Merriam Webster Dictionary, is a radiant light around the head or body of a representation of a sacred personage—similar to a halo.

1. What can readers infer about the speaker of the poem from the first line?
2. What is going on when readers are introduced to the scene?
3. In line 2 of the poem, (“If I tough her there everything about me will be true.”) what do readers learn about the speaker? Do you think she does this often? Is she proud? Confused?
4. What is the “New World?”
5. Who do you assume Brenda Jones is? What is the author’s purpose for mentioning her?
6. What is symbolic of the “hand” in this poem?
7. How does the speaker see this experience?
8. What role do cars play in this poem? Why do you think the author chooses cars as opposed to something else?