My Mother Sews Blouses

*Gina Valdes (1986)*

My mother sews blouses

for a dollar a piece.

They must be working on

black cloth again, I see

her fingers sliding on

her eyelids.

Six months ago she went

to the old oculist, the

one who “knows all about

eyes,” who turned her

eyelids inside out and

scraped them with a tiny

knife to get the black

lint out.

Her eyes were bright and

clear for a few months.

She’s blinking now,

talking about night school.

Valdes, Gina. "My Mother Sews Blouses." Ed. Elizabeth McMahan. *Literature and the Writing Process*. 10th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, 2014. 652-53. Print.