**Wealth**

*Directions: Answer the following questions about “The California Gold Rush, 1849” and “The Cremation of Sam McGee”.*

1. Write down three facts about the California Gold Rush as depicted by Mr. Shufelt in “The California Gold Rush, 1849.”

2. How does Mr. Shufelt’s letter support (or not support) the class’s definition of the American Dream?

3. Now read “The Cremation of Sam McGee.” First, summarize the poem in 2-3 sentences. Then, select three lines and use the following chart to organize the poem’s literal and deeper meanings.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| line # | literal meaning | deeper meaning |
|  |  |  |

4. Discuss the poem’s form. Is there a rhythm to it? What about a rhyming pattern? What effect do these two features have on the poem’s tone, mood, and message?

5. What realities depicted in Mr. Shufelt’s letter and “The Cremation of Sam McGee” show the difficulty of achieving the American Dream this way? Does this stop people from trying to achieve it? Why do you think that is?