* *Read the poem below, then answer the following questions in caps.*

**Words to know:**

**Lineage**: a direct line of family members from the past to today

**Sowing**: planting **Toil:** work hard, labor **Sturdiness**: strength

“Lineage” by Margaret Walker (1915-1998)

My grandmothers were strong

They followed plows and bent to toil.

They moved through fields sowing seed.

They touched earth and grain grew.

5 They were full of sturdiness and singing.

My grandmothers are full of memories—

**Smelling of soap and onions and wet clay**

With veins rolling roughly over quick hands

They have many clean words to say.

10 **My grandmothers were strong.**

**Why am I not as they?**

26. What can you infer (take an educated guess) about the grandmothers after reading this poem? (Hint: In addition to the poem, keep in mind both the title of the poem and the birth date of the poet.)

A. they were educated

NOTE: If the author was born in 1915, her grandmothers lived during the time of slavery, which didn’t end until the 1860s.

B. they were slaves see clues above

C. they were weak

D. they were bitter about their past

27. Identify a line that stimulates the sense of smell through imagery.

A. line 2

B. line 4

**C. line 7 see clue above**

D. line 8

28. How many stanzas does this poem have?

A. 5

B. 10

C. 1

**D. 2 remember a stanza is like a paragraph in poetry**

29. Look at line 4 in which the speaker states about her grandmothers: “They touched earth and grain

grew.” What poetic device is employed here?

1. **hyperbole: it’s an exaggeration of their farming skills that just touching earth produced a**

**harvest**

B. flashback

C. irony

D. personification

30. Which of the following is true about the speaker?

A. she is embarrassed by her family history

**B. she wishes she could be more like her grandmothers see clue above**

C. she wants vengeance for the wrongs done against her grandmothers

D. all of the above

31. Which of the following best describes the grandmothers’ tones toward their work/lives?

A. defeated

B. apathetic (uncaring)

C. perseverant (not giving up) see clues above

D. grateful