* *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

B. they were slaves

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

D. line 8

28. How many stanzas does this poem have?

A. 5

B. 10

C. 1

D. 2

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?

A. hyperbole

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

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)

D. grateful