Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Funny in Farsi* by Firoozeh Dumas

**Characteristics of a Memoir**

\_\_\_ Tells the story of a single memory.

 What is the memory?

\_\_\_ Focuses on the relationship between the writer and a particular person, place, or thing.

 Explain the relationship and why it’s important:

\_\_\_ Makes clear what the author learned or took away from that memory.

 What lesson or impact did the memory have?

\_\_\_ Based on truth and reveals something about the author.

 How do you know?

**Elements of a Memoir**

Does it include…

\_\_\_\_ a catchy title?

\_\_\_\_ a hook or introduction to grab your attention and give you some background knowledge?

\_\_\_\_ many details?

\_\_\_\_ imagery and other figurative language?

\_\_\_\_ a conclusion in which the author reflects on the memory?

Characteristics of a memoir

**Cultural Memoir**

Does the story focus on a memory that is important because it helps the author reflect on her culture (where she is from, how she lives, etc.)?

YES NO

What type of cultural memory does she use?

\_\_\_\_ Food \_\_\_\_ Family

\_\_\_\_ Neighorhood \_\_\_\_ Stereotype

\_\_\_\_ Holiday/Special \_\_\_\_ Other

 Event

Characteristics of a memoir

Cultural memoirs

**Leffingwell Elementary School**

How doez Firoozeh feel about her culture? Why does she feel this way? (Remember: how old is she?)

**Hot Dogs and Wild Geese**

In some cultures, it is considered very rude not to try new foods. Do you try new foods? Is there a polite way to refuse?

What foods in our culture might seem strange to a foreigner?

**I Ran and I Ran and I Ran, and I-raynians Need Not Apply**

Connect these two memoirs to your knowledge of Iran’s historical background.

How does Firoozeh’s Iranian culture change her life in America? Why is this?

How do you think she (and her family) feel about trying to maintain their culture while living in America?

**Figurative Language Scavenger Hunt**

As you read through these excerpts, locate five examples of figurative language that Dumas uses in her writing. Please write the phrase, the page number, and the literal meaning (what she is saying).

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.