English first peoples poetry review sheet

Instructions: Explain each poetic devices listed beside each of the following lines of poetry in point form. See example.

Ie. The burrito was like a fire in my mouth.- (Simile, Hyperbole)

Simile- because it compares the burrito to a fire using the word like

Hyperbole-because it is exaggerating how hot the burrito is

1. Like an eagle, my spirit soars above the wind. (Simile, alliteration, hyperbole, allusion)
2. His soul burns with anger, against the atrocities he has overcome. (metaphor, assonance)
3. The land is a feeling. (metaphor)
4. Down through the years they gave us a few back but they kept all the points and feathers and only gave us the shaft. And we been pretty much getting the shaft ever since. (pun)
5. There’s a huge silence you discover when you get way beyond things like houses and roads and motors…a beautiful, roaring silence. A silence that’s full of everything. (metaphor, oxymoron, hyperbole)
6. Far off thunder sounding like a big drum in the sky and all the snaps and crackles, rubbings and scrapings that goes on in the bush at night when you can’t see anything. (simile, onomatopoeia, allusion)
7. A thick blanket of sounds that tells you that darkness has a life too. (metaphor, personification)
8. If you look out over the front it’s like a magic curtain of cloud. Big shiny silver curtain that parts with the tip of the canoe. (simile, alliteration, imagery)
9. All around me was a huge land. Empty but full. (assonance, oxymoron)
10. All of us have a secret yearning for our tribal past…and fires spark that for us no matter who we are. (allusion, metaphor, pun)
11. I was sitting there like a big open channel on the water when them waves are pouring over it…moving so fast on top that they churn up things that’ve been resting down there a long, long time. That’s how it felt. Churning. Old feelings, images and dreams all churned into motion again. (simile, alliteration, pun, metaphor)
12. The voices of a history that got removed. (personification)
13. A past that never got the chance to shine in me. (metaphor/irony)
14. A glittering magic past that was being resurrected right there in the crumpled heap of an old cabin that had given itself back to the land a long time ago. (personification, metaphor, alliteration)
15. As those tears swept my face I offered a pinch of tobacco to the skeleton of the cabin that had become the bones of my life, to the power of the land for keeping it here. (allusion, personification, metaphor x2 )
16. Silent she stands in her gentle ways, growing old and wise, knowing our nature’s ways, our Elder-My Nokomis. (alliteration, allusion)
17. Follow the red blood in your veins. It flows like the rivers of the earth out to the sea. (metaphor, simile)
18. Take care of the body you have been given, it is like the limbs of a tree-its roots grow deep. (simile, pun)
19. If you create hurt upon yourself or to others, it will bring pain to you and then your children-our people; as cutting off the branches will destroy the tree and then the forests-our lives. (metaphor)
20. Follow in the tracks of my moccasins and you will learn, and as you pass through the years a calm understanding will come. (metaphor)

History Lesson (allusion)

Out of the belly of Christopher’s 1 ship (personification, allusion)

a mob bursts (metaphor, hyperbole)

Running in all directions (metaphor, allusion, hyperbole)

Pulling furs off animals (allusion)

shooting buffalo

shooting each other

left and right (hyperbole,allusion)

Father mean well (allusion, sarcasm)

waves his makeshift wand (allusion, metaphor)

forgives saucer-eyed Indians (allusion, alliteration, hyperbole)

Red coated knights

gallop across the prairie

to get their men

and to build a new world (allusion x2)

Pioneers and traders

bring gifts (metaphor)

Smallpox, Seagrams

and Rice Krispies (irony, allusion x3)

Civilization has reached

the promised land ( irony/allusion)

Between the snap crackle pop (allusion/onomatopoeia)

of smoke stacks

and multi-coloured rivers

Swelling with flower powered zee (onomatopoeia, allusion, alliteration, pun)

Are farmers sowing skulls and bones (metaphor)

and miners

pulling from gaping holes

green paper faces (personification, metaphor)

of smiling English lady (alliteration, allusion x2)

The colossi

in which they trust

while burying breathing forests and fields (personification)

beneath concrete and steel (allusion x2, alliteration)

Stand shaking fists

waiting to mutilate

whole generations

ten generations at a blow (allusion, hyperbole, metaphor)

Somewhere among the remains

of skinless animals

is the termination

to a long journey (allusion)

And unholy search

for the power

glimpsed in a garden (allusion)

forever closed

forever lost (allusion, alliteration)

1Christopher Columbus

Poem questions All answers must have reason/examples and explanations where

necessary. Answers must be written in full sentences.

1. What is the poem about? How do you know? Give 2 reasons with examples and explanations.
2. What is the theme (main message) of the poem? What evidence in the poem makes you think this? Explain your answer.
3. What does the poem teach us about first nations culture/issues? Give examples from the poem to support your answer.