



Ode to Family Photographs

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Mama was never good at pictures.

This is a statue of a famous general who lost an arm,
And this is me with my head cut off.

This a trash can chained to a gate,
This is my father with his eyes half-closed.

This a photograph of my sister
And a giraffe looking over her shoulder.

This is our car's front bumper.
This is a bird with a pretzel in its beak.
This is my brother Pedro standing on one leg on a rock.
With a smear of chocolate on his face.

Mama sneezed when she looked
Behind the camera: the snapshots are blurry,
The angles dizzy as a spin on a merry-go-round.

But we had fun when Mama picked up the camera.
How can I tell?
Each of us laughing hard.
Can you see: I have candy in my mouth.

Think About the Use of Perspective in this Poem:

Who is the speaker in "Ode to Family Photographs"? How do you know?

What do the speaker's words about his family photographs reveal about his feelings and emotions about the photographs?

How would you describe the speaker's perspective (his thoughts, feelings, and personal point of view) as it relates to the focus of this poem? Cite evidence from the poem to support your claims.