

Border Lines

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by Alberto Alvaro Rios

*A weight carried by two
weighs only half as much.*

The world on a map looks like the drawing of a cow
In a butcher's shop,
all those lines showing
Where to cut.

That drawing of the cow is also a jigsaw puzzle,
Showing just as much how very well
All the strange parts fit together.
Which way we look at the drawing
Makes all the difference.

We seem to live in a world of maps:
But in truth we live in a world made
Not of paper and ink, but of people.

Those lines are our lives. Together,
Let us turn the map until we see clearly:

The border is what joins us, Not what separates us.

1. In the poem, what does the author compare a map of the world to?

2. How is the drawing of a cow in a butcher's shop like a jigsaw puzzle?

3. Why do you think the author feels that we live in a world of maps?

4. How can borders join us, rather than separate us?

5. How do you think this poem relates to the title of Lesson 3, "Creating Territories"?
