Outside the door,  
lurking in the shadows,  
is a terrorist.

Is that the wrong description?  
Outside that door,  
taking shelter in the shadows,  
is a freedom fighter.

I haven’t got this right.  
Outside, waiting in the shadows,  
is a hostile militant.

Are words no more  
than waving, wavering flags?  
Outside your door,  
watchful in the shadows,  
is a guerrilla warrior.

God help me.  
Outside, defying every shadow,  
stands a martyr.  
I saw his face.

No words can help me now.  
Just outside the door,  
lost in shadows,  
is a child who looks like mine.

One word for you.  
Outside my door,  
his hand too steady,  
his eyes too hard  
is a boy who looks like your son, too.

I open the door.  
Come in, I say.  
Come in and eat with us.

The child steps in  
and carefully, at my door,  
takes off his shoes.
Section A
- Annotate (make notes on) the poem above.
- Use different colours to show different elements.
- Look for: rhyme scheme, enjambment, punctuation, metaphors and other figurative devices
- Write down your understanding of the various lines

Section B
Write down the denotation and connotations of the following words:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Denotation</th>
<th>Connotation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lurking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watchful</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waiting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carefully</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Defying</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadows</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom fighter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostile militant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guerrilla warrior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martyr</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section C
1. What tone is used in line 2?
2. What is the device used in line 4?
3. Discuss the use of the word “terrorist” (line 3) versus “freedom-fighter” (line 7).
4. What does line 8 reveal about the speaker?
5. Why does the speaker shift phrasing from “outside the door” to “outside your door” (line 13)?
6. How does stanza 6 reveal the vulnerability of the person outside the door?
7. In your opinion, is “The Right Word” an appropriate title for this poem? Motivate your answer.
8. What is the significance of the speaker opening the door?
9. What is the significance of the child taking off his shoes?
10. What is the tone of the final four stanzas?