**Both the short story, “Just Like Home” and the poem, “Life Doesn’t Frighten me,” the main character and the speaker talk about overcoming fear during challenging life experiences—even though the situations they describe are different.**

**In “Just Like Home,” the main character Priya moves to the United States from India and doesn’t have any friends. The only thing she likes in school is art. She looks on longingly as the other children play during recess, feeling very left out and lonely. But then she remembers how her mother used to draw chalk patterns on their driveway to welcome guests. Priya walks over to basketball court and starts to use chalk to create her favorite rangoli patterns (type of art from India). When the other kids see what she’s doing, they join in on creating patterns—with their own cultural “twist.” So now Priya became friends with her classmates through this activity. This shows Priya and the reader that when you share a part of yourself and be yourself, you can make friends and feel like you are at home.**

**Similarly, in the poem, “Life Doesn’t Frighten Me,” the speaker talks about not being afraid of challenging or scary experiences but look at them as a chance to grow example. For example, the poem talks about not allowing loud noises (like bad dogs barking loud) or when other people bully the speaker or make him or her feel bad, you carry on and don’t let them know how you feel. (It says, “I just smile and they go wild.”) Even if we have bad dreams which we can’t control, we shouldn’t be afraid. It also says, “I can walk the ocean floor and never have to breathe.” This shows that the speaker can do any task—even the most difficult.**

**In conclusion, both the poem and the story remind us to be brave, have confidence in ourselves and share ourselves with others—even when it’s hard to do.**