**“First Ice” Activities**

*Directions:* Please complete and/or participate in each of the following activities as we do them as a class.

**Reading the Poem:**

1. Read the poem aloud regularly.
2. Read the poem aloud in an angry voice.
3. Read the poem aloud in a sad voice.

**Thinking about the Poem:**

1. What emotion do you think fits the poem best? Why?
2. Basically, what happened in this poem? Sum it up in your own words as briefly as possible.
3. What do you think the phone call was about? Why?

**Bringing the Poem to Life:**

*Directions:* Choose one of the following options.

1. On a blank piece of white paper, draw what happens in the poem. Share with the class.
2. With a partner, act out what happens in the poem without using any words, almost like miming.

**Writing Based on the Poem:**

*Directions:* Choose one of the following options.

1. Choose one line of the poem. Write your own poem or story that includes that line.
2. Rewrite the poem as super short story. Include some background about why this happened and maybe what happens after.

**First Ice**

***Andrei Vozesensky* (Translated by George Reavey)**

A girl freezes in a telephone booth.

In her drafty overcoat she hides

A face all smeared

in lipstick and tears.

She breathes on her thin palms. *5*

Her fingers are icicles. She wears earrings.

She’ll have to walk home alone,

Along the ice-bound street.

First ice. The very first time.

The first ice of telephone phrases. *10*

Frozen tears glisten on her cheeks–

The first ice of human hurt.