**‘Trying to Talk with a Man’ by Adrienne Rich – Questions**

**\*There must be a quote and a personal response “I think/ I believe” etc in each answer**

**Thinking about Themes:**

1. The speaker says that silence “came with” them to the desert. What is the effect of describing an intangible concept, silence, as a physical presence?
2. “Your dry heat feels like power”. Here, the poet seems to associate her husband with the unforgiving desert landscape. What does this tell us about how she feels about him? What does this tell us about the power dynamic in the relationship?

**Thinking about Language:**

1. This poem is full of striking imagery. Pick out a phrase that you found particularly effective and say why you like it.
2. Write a short paragraph about the hazardous setting of this poem. In your opinion, does it heighten the drama between the poet and her partner, or does it distract from it? Explain your answer.