“Marks”

My husband gives me an A

for last night's supper,

an incomplete for my ironing,

a B plus in bed.

*5* My son says I am average,

an average mother, but if

I put my mind to it

I could improve.

My daughter believes

*10* in Pass/Fail and tells me

I pass. Wait 'til they learn

I'm dropping out.

--Linda Pastan

* Discuss the meaning of the title.
* Explain the appropriateness of the conceit in this poem. How does it reveal the woman’s relationship with her family?
* How does the last line serve both as climax of the woman’s story and the poem’s conceit?