**“Choices”**

**by Nikki Giovanni**

**If i can't do**

**what i want to do**

**then my job is to not**

**do what i don't want**

**to do**

**It's not the same thing**

**but it's the best i can**

**do**

**If i can't have**

**what i want . . . then**

**my job is to want**

**what i've got**

**and be satisfied**

**that at least there**

**is something more to want**

**Since i can't go**

**where i need**

**to go . . . then i must . . . go**

**where the signs point**

**through always understanding**

**parallel movement**

**isn't lateral**

**When i can't express**

**what i really feel**

**i practice feeling**

**what i can express**

**and none of it is equal**

**I know**

**but that's why mankind**

**alone among the animals**

**learns to cry**

**SIFT Poetry Analysis Strategy**

**Directions: Use the table below to record examples of each of the poetic devices from the poem *“Choices”* . Be sure to use the exact wording.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Symbol(s)**    examine the title and text for symbolism |  |
| **Images**    identify images and sensory details |  |
| **Figures of Speech**  analyze figurative language and other devices |  |
| **Tone and Theme**  discuss the tone and theme |  |