

'The Cataract Of Lodore' by Robert Southey

The cataract strong then plunges along;
Striking and raging as if a war waging
Its caverns and rocks among;
Rising and leaping, sinking and creeping,
Swelling and sweeping, showering and springing,
Plying and flinging, writhing and wringing,
Heeding and whisking, spouting and frisking,
Turning and twisting, around and around
With endless rebound...
And threading and spreading and whizzing and hissing
And dripping and skipping and hitting and splitting,
And shining and twining and rattling and battling,
And shaking and quaking and pouring and roaring,
And moaning and groaning; and glittering and flittering,
And gathering and feathering,
And whitening and brightening, and quivering and shivering,
And flurrying and scurrying and thundering and floundering...
Recoiling, turmoiling and toiling and boiling,
And flapping and rapping and clapping and slapping,
And curling and whirling and purling and twirling,
And thumping and bumping and jumping,
And dashing and flashing and splashing and clashing...

Glossary

Cataract: *a large waterfall or cascade; a downpour; a rush of water.*

Activities

1. Underline any words in the poem that you do not understand and then use a dictionary to find out their meaning.
2. Underline the verbs in this list: gurgle, jet, rush, waterfall, deluge, rill, ripple, spring, torrent, spate, eddy, tarn, spurt, cascade, beck, babble, spout, runnel, splash, tinkle, gush, ooze, sluice, croon, fountain, lake, burn, swirl, whirlpool, tributary, billow, surge, roller, meander, swell, choppy, comber, well.
3. Now change these verbs into the present participle.
4. Write down as many adjectives and nouns (even more verbs if you can) to describe the power of water. You may use a dictionary or thesaurus. Use your sense of touch, smell, sound, taste and sight to help you.