

Can you see the wind? – a poetry reading comprehension

Name:

Date:.....

Read the following original poem.

Can you see the wind?

Can you see the wind?

The old, cold wrinkles on canal skin
A shiver of dead leaves clinging to bare-bone branch
Grass blades fencing a bloodless,
invisible foe.

Was it the wind?

The ghostly pull on scarf and hair
A paper flying carpet on a mystical journey
Bins tipped over in unseen malice; contents kicked down the
road.

Is it the wind?

The howling warning before branches break
A cacophonous tantrum of flying garden furniture
Wide lorries felled by a giant's swipe,
ensuing chaos.

Was that the wind?

The weather forecast arrows: larger, sharper
A growing rumble, neither plane nor train
Uncoiled, reckless, spinning furies slinging, scattering,
smashing, lashing.

Can you see the wind?

The occasional breath of the curtains
A flower nodding in a well-dressed crowd

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Can you see the wind? – a poetry reading comprehension

Name: Date:.....

Answer the following questions based on the poem 'Can you see the wind?'

Top tips:

- In any poem, find the story and the characters, the message or the contrasting moods.
- Find out what happens in each verse.
- Try to work out what changes, what the story journey is.
- What is the ending about?

1. Decode and explore vocabulary:

Highlight words you do not know. **Pick one.** Write it here.
Use the context to work out what it could mean.

Word: I think this word means:
.....

2. Retrieve information:

The poem has five verses. Write a number from 1-5 which matches the description of the verses below.

- A verse which explores several ways that the wind affects towns and cities:
- A verse that compares the wind to a human body:
- A verse where the answer to **Can you see the wind?** Might be **No.**
- The most violent verse:
- A verse which implies the wind is magical:



3. Infer by looking deeper into the poem:

In the second verse, how does the poet make the wind seem intentionally unkind? Support your answer with an example from the verse.

The poet makes the wind seem unkind.

.....
.....

An example to show this is:

“ ”

4. Author’s choice: How does the author change the power of the wind as you move through the poem? Give an example from the poem to demonstrate what you are saying by contrasting different verses.

At the start of the poem:

An example to show this: “.....”

But later in the poem:

An example to show this: “.....”

Then, at the end:

An example to show this: “.....”

Challenge questions! Find an example of:

- a. internal rhyme
- b. onomatopoeia
- c. personification
- d. Imagery

Guidance answers

1. Answers will vary.

2. Retrieve information: (5)

The poem has five verses. Write a number from 1-5 which matches the description of the verses below.

- A verse which explores several ways that the wind affects towns and cities: 2
- A verse that compares the wind to a human body: 1
- A verse where the answer to **Can you see the wind?** Might be **No.** 5
- The most violent verse: 4 or perhaps 3
- A verse which implies the wind is magical: 2

3. Infer by looking deeper into the poem:

In the second verse, how does the poet make the wind seem intentionally unkind? Support your answer with an example from the verse.

The poet makes the wind seem unkind by suggesting that it knocked the bins over on purpose and kicked the rubbish down the road. An example to show this is 'unseen malice'.

4. Author's Choice: How does the author change the power of the wind as you move through the poem? Give an example from the poem to demonstrate what you are saying by contrasting different verses.

At the start of the poem: the wind is quite gentle, only moving the grass a little
An example to show this: 'grass blades fencing'

But later in the poem: the wind is much more violent and causing real damage
An example to show this: 'lorries felled', 'ensuing chaos', 'scattering, smashing, lashing'

Then, at the end: everything calms down again to a gentle breeze.

An example to show this: 'occasional breath of the curtains', 'flower nodding'

Challenge questions! Find an example of:

b. **onomatopoeia:** swipe, rumble, smashing, lashing

c. **personification:** lines 2, 3, 4 plus many more!

d. **imagery:** e.g. line 4: blades fencing - shows you how the grass is tangling together and slashing; line 14: giant's swipe - shows power of the wind like a great hand pushing. (4)