

A Read the story. What happens when the boy falls asleep?

B Read the story again. How does the boy describe what he visualizes? Remember, poets choose words carefully to help readers see pictures in their minds.

VISUALIZING NATURE

Yesterday afternoon, I was watching TV when I fell asleep. While I was sleeping, pictures floated through my mind. First, I saw a **robin** with a bright red front. It was hopping on dry, colorful leaves in our yard. In my mind, I visualize the robin joining other robins. The robins are beautiful as they fly through the sky.

Think

What pictures does the writer see in his mind?

Then I saw **snowflakes** dancing in the air. They were big and white. They looked like frozen dancers performing an icy dance.

When I woke up, I decided to write a poem to tell what I saw in my dreams. "What words should I use?" I asked myself. I will use action **verbs** to describe the robin flying and hopping. I will use an **adjective** to describe how the robins looked when they flew all together. And I will use lots of other adjectives to describe the snowflakes: *big, white, frozen*.

Think

What pictures does the writer see in his mind?



I think about poems I know: acrostic poems, haikus, cinquain poems, nature poems, and funny poems. Some of the poems use **rhyming words**. Others have a specific number of **syllables**. I ask myself, "What kind of poem do I want to write?" I sit down at my desk and take out a piece of paper and a pencil. And then I begin to write.

Understand

Comprehension

- A** Why does the boy write a poem? What was one of the things he visualized? What did he say they looked like to him?

- B** Answer the questions. Check (✓) more than one answer for some questions.

1 What happens when the boy falls asleep?

- ☐ **a** He writes a poem.
- ☐ **b** He gets hungry.
- ☐ **c** He sees pictures in his mind.
- ☐ **d** He watches TV.

2 What will he write about?

- ☐ **a** robins
- ☐ **b** ladybugs
- ☐ **c** kangaroos
- ☐ **d** snowflakes

3 What kinds of words will he use?

- ☐ **a** adverbs
- ☐ **b** verbs
- ☐ **c** syllables
- ☐ **d** adjectives

4 Which words rhyme?

- ☐ **a** fly
- ☐ **b** white
- ☐ **c** sky
- ☐ **d** robin

- C Words in Context** Match each word to its definition.

1 exact •

• **a** to watch or see someone or something

2 describe •

• **b** to make a picture of something in your mind

3 observe •

• **c** completely correct

4 imagine •

• **d** to say what someone or something is like