

## Before You Read

### Summer

#### Connect to the Poem

The poem you are about to read describes hot summer days. Think about the things, large and small, that make summer special for you.

**List** Make a list of your favorite summer activities. In your list, use at least five vivid, descriptive words to show what makes the activities fun.

#### Build Background

In "Summer," Walter Dean Myers uses imagery to help readers understand and feel the speaker's summer experience. Imagery is language that helps readers see, hear, feel, smell, and taste the scenes described in a piece of writing. Imagery often helps create the mood, or atmosphere, of a poem.

#### Set Purposes for Reading

##### **BQ** BIG Question

As you read, ask yourself, what sights and sounds does the speaker associate with summer?

##### **Literary Element** Repetition

**Repetition** is the recurrence of sounds, words, phrases, lines, or stanzas in a speech or piece of writing. For example, in "Summer," some lines repeat the phrase "hot days."

Authors and poets use repetition to call readers' attention to important words and phrases. In poetry, repetition helps build rhythm, the pattern created by stressed and unstressed syllables. Repetition also helps create meaning and unity in a poem by tying together words and ideas.

As you read the poem, think about the effects of Myers's use of repetition. What sounds, words, phrases, and lines does he repeat?



Online

**Author Search** For more about Walter Dean Myers, go to [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com) and enter QuickPass code GL29763u3.

#### Learning Objectives

For pages 390–392

In studying this text, you will focus on the following objective:

**Literary Study:**  
Analyzing repetition.

#### Meet Walter Dean Myers



##### Writing for Self-Expression

As a boy, Walter Dean Myers had a speech difficulty that made it hard for people to understand him. A teacher encouraged him to express himself through writing. Today he is an award-winning author, recognized especially for his young-adult fiction. Myers has published dozens of books, including modern fairy tales, ghost stories, and poetry. "Summer" was published in 1993.

Walter Dean Myers was born in 1937.

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# Summer

Walter Dean Myers

I like hot days, hot days  
 Sweat is what you got days  
 Bugs buzzin from cotisin to cousin  
 Juices dripping  
 5 Running and ripping  
 Catch the one you love days

Birds peeping  
 Old men sleeping  
 Lazy days, daisies lay  
 10 Beaming and dreaming  
 Of hot days, hot days,  
 Sweat is what you got days

*Music Lesson #3, 2000.*  
Colin Bootman. Oil on board.  
Private Collection.

**Repetition** What sounds are repeated in these lines? What feeling does the repetition create?

**BQ** **BIG Question**  
What makes life good for the speaker?

## After You Read

### Respond and Think Critically

1. What objects and experiences does the speaker associate with summer? Explain. [Recall]
2. Why does the poet include the line "Bugs buzzin from cousin to cousin"? Explain what kind of event this suggests. [Interpret]
3. What mood does the line "Catch the one you love days" help to create? [Interpret]
4. How well do you think the poem captures the feeling of summer? Use details from the poem to support your answer. [Evaluate]
5. **Literary Element** **Repetition** The word *days* appears several times in the poem. What is the effect of this repetition? Explain. [Analyze]
6. **BQ** **BIG Question** The speaker describes the things he or she enjoys about summer. What would you add to the speaker's list? Explain. [Connect]

### Spelling Link

**Unstressed Vowels** Notice the **unstressed vowel sound** in the second syllable of *photograph*. In the dictionary, this sound is indicated by the schwa symbol (ə). To spell words with unstressed vowels, think of a related word in which the syllable containing the vowel sound is stressed. Then use the same letter to spell the word with the unstressed vowel.

Unknown Letter	Related Word	Correct Spelling
phot_graph	photography	photograph
inform_tive	information	informative

**Practice** On a sheet of paper, list the words *ridicule* and *observant*. Circle the unstressed vowel in each word. Next to each word, write a related word in which the vowel is stressed.

### Writing

**Write a Scene** Which words remind you of the sights, sounds, tastes, and smells of summer? Write a description of something you do every summer. Make your scene vivid by repeating sounds, words, and phrases for emphasis. Check to see that your description is in a logical order, and use a thesaurus to find descriptive words that will appeal to your readers' senses.

### TIP

#### Interpreting

To answer question 2, you must use your own understanding of the world to decide what the ideas or details in a selection mean.

- Reread line 3 of the poem.
- Think about your experiences. Where are you likely to hear "bugs buzzin"? When do you get to spend time with two or more of your cousins or other relatives?
- Ask yourself, what does the speaker want me to picture when I read this line?



Keep track of your ideas about the **BIG Question** in your unit Foldable.



Literature Online

#### Selection Resources

For Selection Quizzes, eFlashcards, and Reading-Writing Connection activities, go to [glencoe.com](http://glencoe.com) and enter QuickPass code GL29763u3.



## Before You Read

### Dreams

#### Connect to the Poem

This poem is about dreams. What dreams and goals do you have?

**List** Make a list of your dreams and goals. Next to each dream or goal, list actions you can take to achieve each one.

#### Build Background

Langston Hughes was a key figure of the Harlem Renaissance.

- The Harlem Renaissance was a cultural, intellectual, and artistic movement of the 1920s and early 1930s. The movement was centered in Harlem, a neighborhood in New York City.
- During this time, many African American writers and artists began to explore their own experiences, hopes, and dreams.

#### Set Purposes for Reading

##### **BQ** BIG Question

As you read, ask yourself, how can dreams and goals influence a person's life?

##### **Literary Element** Rhyme

**Rhyme** is the repetition of sounds at the ends of words that appear close to each other in a poem. *Gold/cold* and *trail/nail* are examples. **End rhyme** occurs at the ends of a poem's lines. **Internal rhyme** occurs within a line of poetry.

Poets use rhyme to emphasize words and ideas and to connect the lines of their poems. To find the **rhyme scheme**, or the pattern of rhyme formed by the end rhyme, mark each line according to the sound at the end. Mark the first line of a poem with an *a*.

When you find another line that ends with the same sound, mark that line with an *a* also. Then mark the next end-of-the-line sound with a *b* and so on.

Mary had a little lamb	<i>a</i>
Its fleece was white as snow,	<i>b</i>
And everywhere that Mary went	<i>c</i>
The lamb was sure to go.	<i>b</i>

As you read, notice how Hughes uses rhyme and rhyme scheme.

#### Learning Objectives

For pages 393–396

In studying this text, you will focus on the following objectives:

##### Literary Study:

- Analyzing rhyme and rhyme scheme.
- Analyzing metaphors.

#### Meet Langston Hughes



*The people I had grown up  
With weren't people whose  
shoes were always shined,  
Who had been to Harvard.  
But they seemed to me good  
people, too.*

—Langston Hughes

**The People's Poet** Langston Hughes is known for poetry that depicts the lives of ordinary people struggling to earn a living. He was born in 1902 and died in 1967.



#### Literature Online

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# Dreams

Langston Hughes

*Langston Hughes (1902–1967), Poet, 1925. Winold Reiss. Pastel on artist board, 76.3 x 54.9 cm. Gift of W. Tjark Reiss in memory of his father, Winold Reiss. National Portrait Gallery, Washington, DC.*

Hold fast to dreams  
For if dreams die  
Life is a broken-winged bird  
That cannot fly.

- 5 Hold fast to dreams  
For when dreams go  
Life is a barren field  
Frozen with snow.

**Rhyme** Which lines in this stanza have end rhyme? Why might the poet want to connect these lines?

**BO** **BIG Question**

What connection do you see between cherishing dreams and enjoying life?

## After You Read

### Respond and Think Critically

1. What objects and experiences does the speaker associate with summer? Explain. [Recall]
2. Why does the poet include the line "Bugs buzzin from cousin to cousin"? Explain what kind of event this suggests. [Interpret]
3. What mood does the line "Catch the one you love days" help to create? [Interpret]
4. How well do you think the poem captures the feeling of summer? Use details from the poem to support your answer. [Evaluate]
5. **Literary Element** Repetition The word *days* appears several times in the poem. What is the effect of this repetition? Explain. [Analyze]
6. **BQ** **BIG Question** The speaker describes the things he or she enjoys about summer. What would you add to the speaker's list? Explain. [Connect]

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