

Name: _____

The Drifters and Dreamers

The monarch spreads its orange wings,
To seek the heat the southern wind brings.
A thousand miles on paper sails,
To fly beyond the icy gales.
While deep in earth, the groundhog curls,
Far beneath the snowy swirls.
His heart beats slow, his breath is deep,
A master of the winter sleep.

The hare was brown when leaves were green,
But now a ghost, he's barely seen.
He traded in his dusty hide,
For snowy fur to help him hide.
The fox grows out a thicker vest,
To keep the warmth against his chest.
A wooly layer, soft and tight,
To shield him through the frozen night.

Beneath the crust where shadows play,
The meadow vole finds out a way.
A hidden tunnel, warm and low,
Inside the world beneath the snow.
While overhead on paws of grace,
The lynx keeps up a steady pace.
With furry shoes and heavy stride,
He walks where smaller hunters hide.



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1. Which pair of words from the poem is an example of a rhyme?

- A. biting / chill
- B. wings / sails
- C. chill / still
- D. hare / hide

2. How does the rhythm (the beat) of the poem change the way you read it?

- A. It makes the poem sound like a fast-paced song or a steady march.
- B. It makes the poem sound like a conversation between two friends.
- C. It makes the poem difficult to understand.
- D. It makes the poem feel sad and slow.

3. Read these lines of the poem:

"He traded in his dusty **hide**,
For snowy fur to help him **hide**."

The first time the word "hide" is used, what does it mean?

- A. To go into a burrow where no one can find you.
- B. The thick skin or fur of an animal.
- C. To keep a secret from your friends.
- D. A place used by hunters to stay out of sight.

4. Read these lines from the poem: "The north wind brings a **biting** chill, / The woods grow quiet, white, and still." What does the word "biting" suggest about the cold?

- A. The wind has sharp teeth that can hurt you.
- B. The cold is so sharp and intense that it feels like a pinch or a sting.
- C. The animals are eating the snow for dinner.
- D. The wind is hungry and looking for food.

5. What can you conclude about the "drifters" and the "dreamers" based on the poem?

- A. Drifters (migrators) move to find heat, while dreamers (hibernators) stay and sleep.
- B. Both groups of animals leave the forest and fly to Mexico.
- C. Drifters stay active in the snow all winter long.
- D. Dreamers are animals that do not like to eat.