

River Runs Free

1. Who wrote this poem?
2. In verse one, what adjective is used to describe the ridge?
3. In verse three, what are the leaves doing?
4. What is the grass doing?
5. In the final verse, the poet describe the horizon as 'calling endlessly'. Why does he do this? What effect does it have on the poem and the reader?
6. The title of the poem is 'River Runs Free' – in what way does the poet think the river is free? Use quotations from the poem to support your answer.
7. Why does the poet describe the river as 'a glittering seam of stars'?
8. Read the poem aloud. What do you notice about its rhythm and rhyme? How does this rhythm help convey the idea of the river running free?
9. In verse three, the poet uses the word 'woven' to describe the air. Air is not literally woven; why do you think the poet uses this word? Can you think of something that is woven? What does it suggest about the air?
10. What adverb is used to describe how the grass is drinking?
11. Can you list 3 examples of alliteration from the poem? What effect does this have?
12. At the end of the first three verses, the poet uses a simile to describe the river. List them.
Can you think of three similes of your own to describe the river?
13. Do you think the poet enjoys being in nature? What do you think the poet wants you to feel about nature? Use evidence from the poem to support your answer.
14. If you were to turn this poem into a picture of a landscape – what would you draw?

Bonus independent task:

Practise reciting this poem. Think about the rhythm and the meaning of the words as you practise. Can you learn it and recite it from memory?

Using the structure of *River Runs Free*, can you write a poem of your own about something in nature, for example: the ocean, the sun, the wind, an oak tree?