

Winter



When the geese are flying south
And the sky is grey, my dears,
Close your eyes and lift your nose;
Listen with your careful ears.

Feel the winter coming on;
Hear it in the crackling trees;
Note the crisping, quivering wind
Sharply snapping at their leaves.

Feel it on the windowpanes—
Chilly glass on fingertips—
Mark the biting of the air,
Heated breath on numbing lips.

See it in the early eves,
In the glowing sunset where
Shadows of the naked trees
Rattle in the biting air.

Watch the nuthatch and the wren;
They know it is time once more
To abandon careful nests,
As they've done each year before.

Let the frost rest on your face;
Sense a shiver on your skin.
See how pretty nature is
When she ushers winter in.

Excerpt: "Suze Bliner Was Afraid of the Drift"
By Barbara Vance at SuzeBliner.com

Wednesday 22nd April 2020

Task 1: Vocabulary

1. We have seen the word 'quivering' before. **What do you think it means if the *wind* is quivering (verse 2)?**
2. **In verse 4, what do you think it means when it says the trees are 'naked'?** (Think about what trees look like in the winter)
3. On the final line of the final verse, it says, "See how pretty nature is when she ushers winter in."
What does ushers mean in this context?

Task 2: inference

1. **What does the author mean when she says, 'listen with your careful ears'? How can our ears be careful?**
2. **What clues in the poem tell you that it is winter?** (don't write where it directly says that it is winter)
Identify 3 different clues:
 - 1 –
 - 2 –
 - 3 –
3. **In verse 4, how can you tell roughly how cold it is? What does this mean?**