



Slowly, silently, now the moon  
Walks the night in her silver shoon;  
This way, and that, she peers, and sees  
Silver fruit upon silver trees;  
One by one the casements catch  
Her beams beneath the silvery thatch;  
Couched in his kennel, like a log,  
With paws of silver sleeps the dog;  
From their shadowy cote the white breasts peep  
Of doves in silver feathered sleep  
A harvest mouse goes scampering by,  
With silver claws, and silver eye;  
And moveless fish in the water gleam,  
By silver reeds in a silver stream.

*Walter de la Mare*



Name: .....

Date: .....

## Comprehension questions

1. What are the four creatures described in the poem?

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2. Find and copy out the two adverbs describing how the moon walks.

.....

3.

- a. Find and copy out the simile.

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- b. Who or what does that simile describe?

.....

- c. Do you think that it is a good simile? Why?

.....

4. '*Couched in his kennel...*' These words start with the same sound - this is called *alliteration*. Find and copy out another phrase that has some alliteration in it.

.....

5. Are the trees really '*silver*'? Why has the poet described them this way?

.....

6. What does the word '*scampering*' tell us about how the harvest mouse moves?

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7. Why are the fish not moving?

.....

8. What time of year do you think this poem is describing? Select the words from the poem that tell you this.

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## Comprehension answers

1. What are the four creatures described in the poem?

**The four creatures are: a dog, doves, a harvest mouse and fish.**

2. Find and copy out the two adverbs describing how the moon walks.

***Slowly and silently.***

- 3.

- a. Find and copy out the simile.

***The simile is 'like a log'.***

- b. Who or what does that simile describe?

**The simile describes the dog.**

- c. Do you think that it is a good simile? Why?

**Answers will vary, but should refer to the fact that the dog does not move as it is asleep.**

4. '*Couched in his kennel...*' These words start with the same sound - this is called *alliteration*. Find and copy out another phrase that has some alliteration in it.

**Answers could be:**

***Slowly, silently    casements catch    beams beneath    silver sleeps***

**Repetition of the word *silver* is not strictly alliteration.**

5. Are the trees really '*silver*'? Why has the poet described them this way?

**The trees are not really silver. The poet describes them as silver because the moonlight makes them look silver.**

6. What does the word '*scampering*' tell us about how the harvest mouse moves?

**The word *scampering* tells us that the harvest mouse is moving quickly.**

7. Why are the fish not moving?

**The fish is not moving because they are asleep.**

8. What time of year do you think this poem is describing? Select the words from the poem that tell you this.

**Answers may vary, but should have evidence from the text.**

**Possible answers could be:**

**Summer/autumn because this is when there is fruit on the trees.**

**Summer/autumn because animals like the harvest mouse would not be around in the winter.**

**Probably not winter, because nothing is frozen or cold.**