

Name: _____



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Take me away to the Ramenbee Woods.
That's where I rather would be.

Where hummingbirds float on a whispering breeze,
as honey sap trickles from maplewood trees,
and all of the bears and the bees are at ease.
That's where I rather would be.

Where larks serenade in the luminous glade
as ladybugs flitter about in the shade
and silver-white waterfalls gently cascade.
That's where I rather would be.

Where a lonesome Quixote coyote will croon
as nightingales sing by the light of the moon
to the beat of the midnight frogs' signature tune.
That's where I rather would be.



Name: _____

The Ratherbee Woods

By Neal Levin



1. How did the forest get its name?

2. List the four animals the speaker explicitly says are making sounds.

A cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit and a red cape, flying through the air. A shield-shaped emblem with the letters 'STW' is on his chest.

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magical and ideal than it is and has a hard time accepting reality.

Why do you think the author made that allusion in the 4th stanza?

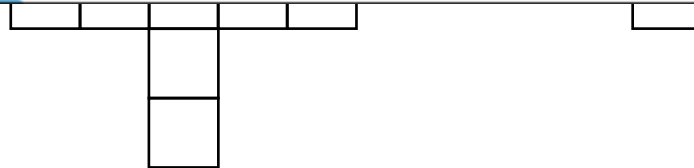
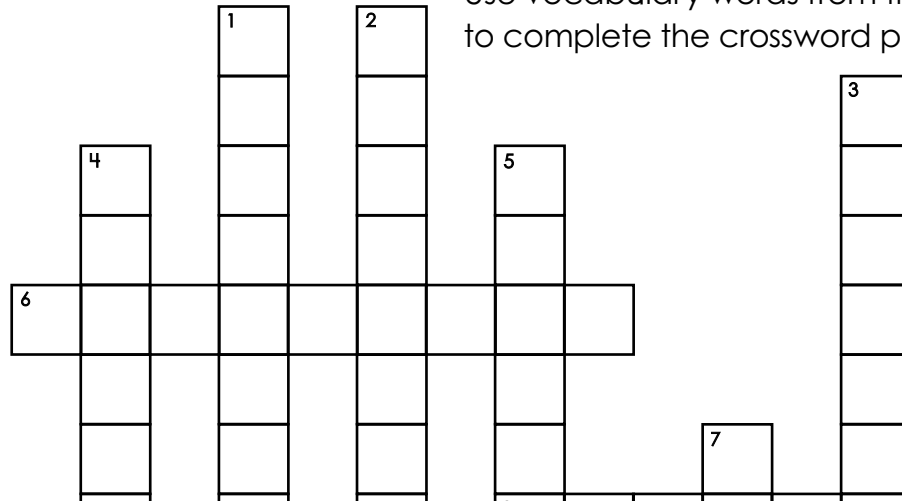
5. What effects do the rhyme scheme and repeated lines have on the poem's flow?
How does it add or relate to the meaning?

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The Ratherbee Woods



Use vocabulary words from the poem to complete the crossword puzzle.



Down:

1. antonym for *dark*; *dim*
2. songbird often heard at night
3. to flow slowly or in small amounts
4. Don ____: a foolish but idealistic character
5. The restaurant's band will ____ you while you eat.
7. to fall in a rush
10. a smaller cousin to the wolf

Across:

6. distinct to someone or something
8. a 2-word phrase meaning *relaxed*
9. a clearing in a forest
11. synonym for *lonely*
12. to sing softly and lowly

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The Ratherbee Woods

In the poem, "The Ratherbee Woods," the author uses vivid images to describe where the speaker would rather be.

Think of a real or imaginary place you would rather be. Write a descriptive poem about it. Challenge yourself to use the same rhyme scheme as "The Ratherbee Woods." Don't forget a title!



A cartoon superhero with brown hair, wearing a blue suit and a red cape, is flying through the air. He has a shield on his chest with the letters 'STW' on it. He is smiling and looking towards the right.

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ANSWER KEY

The Ratherbee Woods

By Neal Levin



1. How did the forest get its name?

The Ratherbee Woods is a place the speaker would rather be.

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Answers may vary. An example is: The lines that rhyme flow quickly

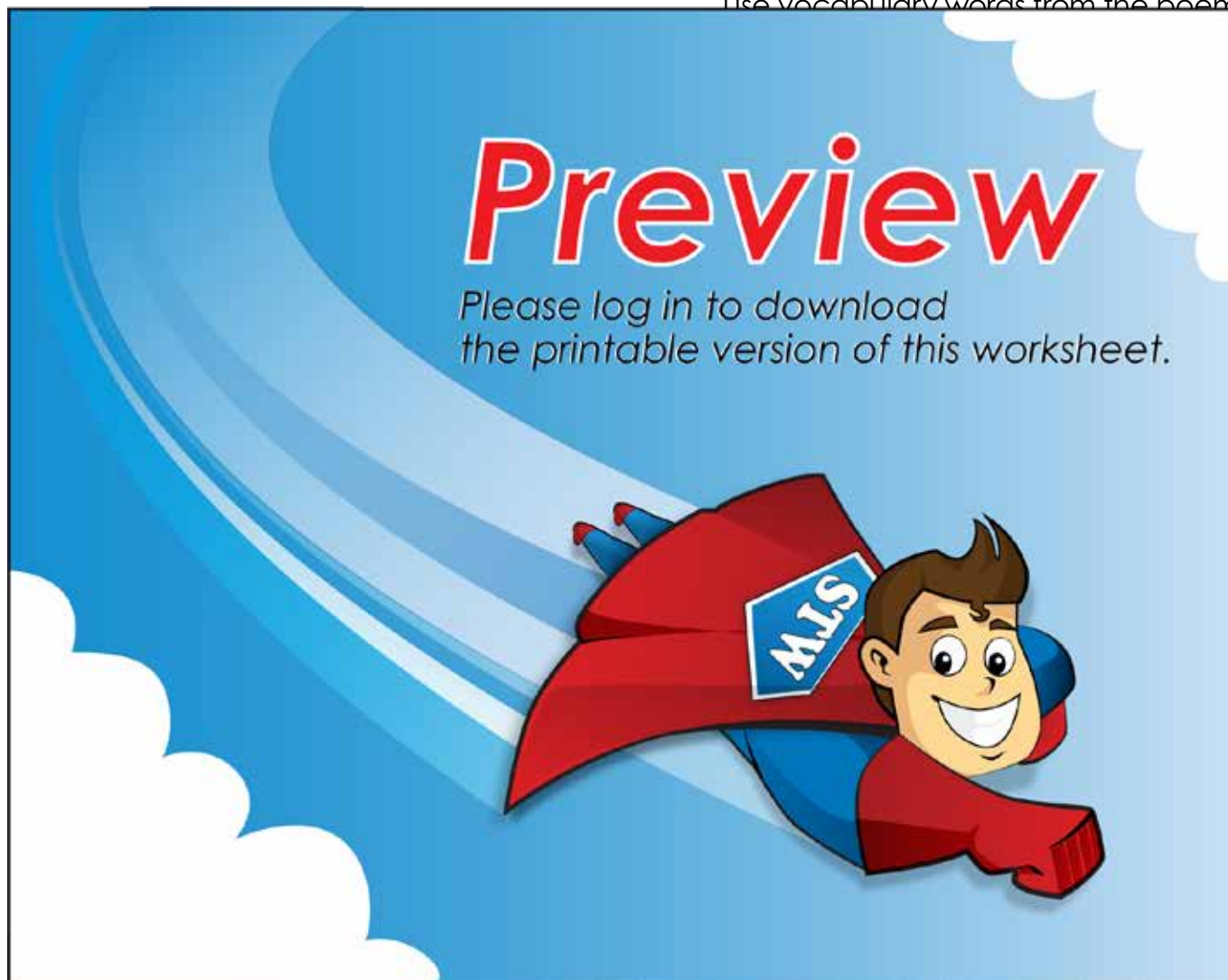
until the repeated line stops them. It is like the speaker keeps having to

come back to reality.

ANSWER KEY

The Ratherbee Woods

Use vocabulary words from the poem



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