

Name: _____



The Ratherbee Woods

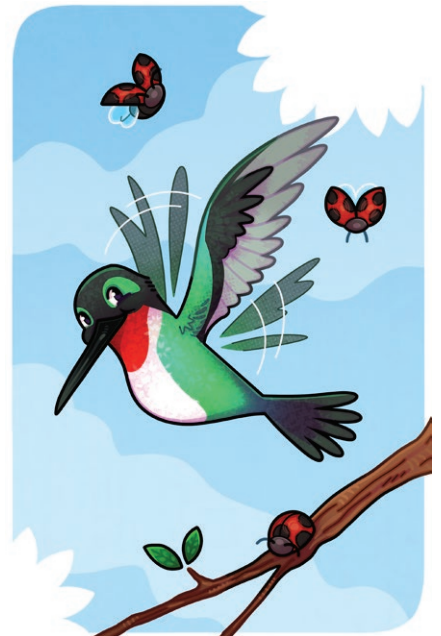
By Neal Levin

Take me away to the Ratherbee 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 flutter 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.



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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.

3. In stanza 2, which literary device is used to describe the wind?

- a. simile b. hyperbole
c. personification d. alliteration

4. An **allusion** is a reference that adds meaning through association.

Don Quixote is a famous book character. He sees the world as more 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?

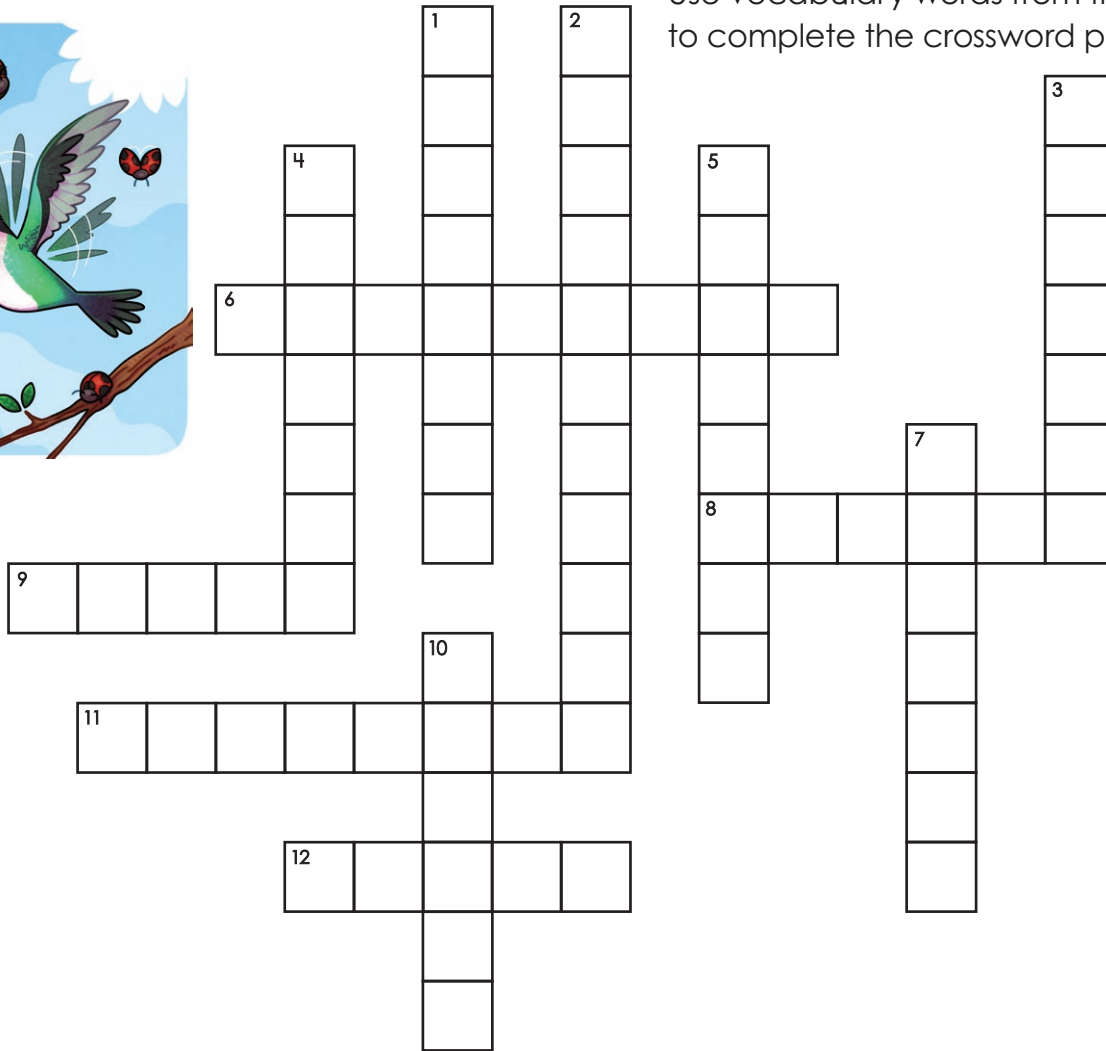
5. What effects do the rhyme scheme and repeated lines have on the poem's flow?
How does it add or relate to the meaning?

Name: _____

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!

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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.

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

larks

a coyote

nightingales

frogs

3. In stanza 2, which literary device is used to describe the wind?

a. simile

b. hyperbole

c. personification

d. alliteration

4. An **allusion** is a reference that adds meaning through association.

Don Quixote is a famous book character. He sees the world as more 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?

Answers may vary. An example is: The author is describing a magical,

ideal place the speaker prefers to where they really are.

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?

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

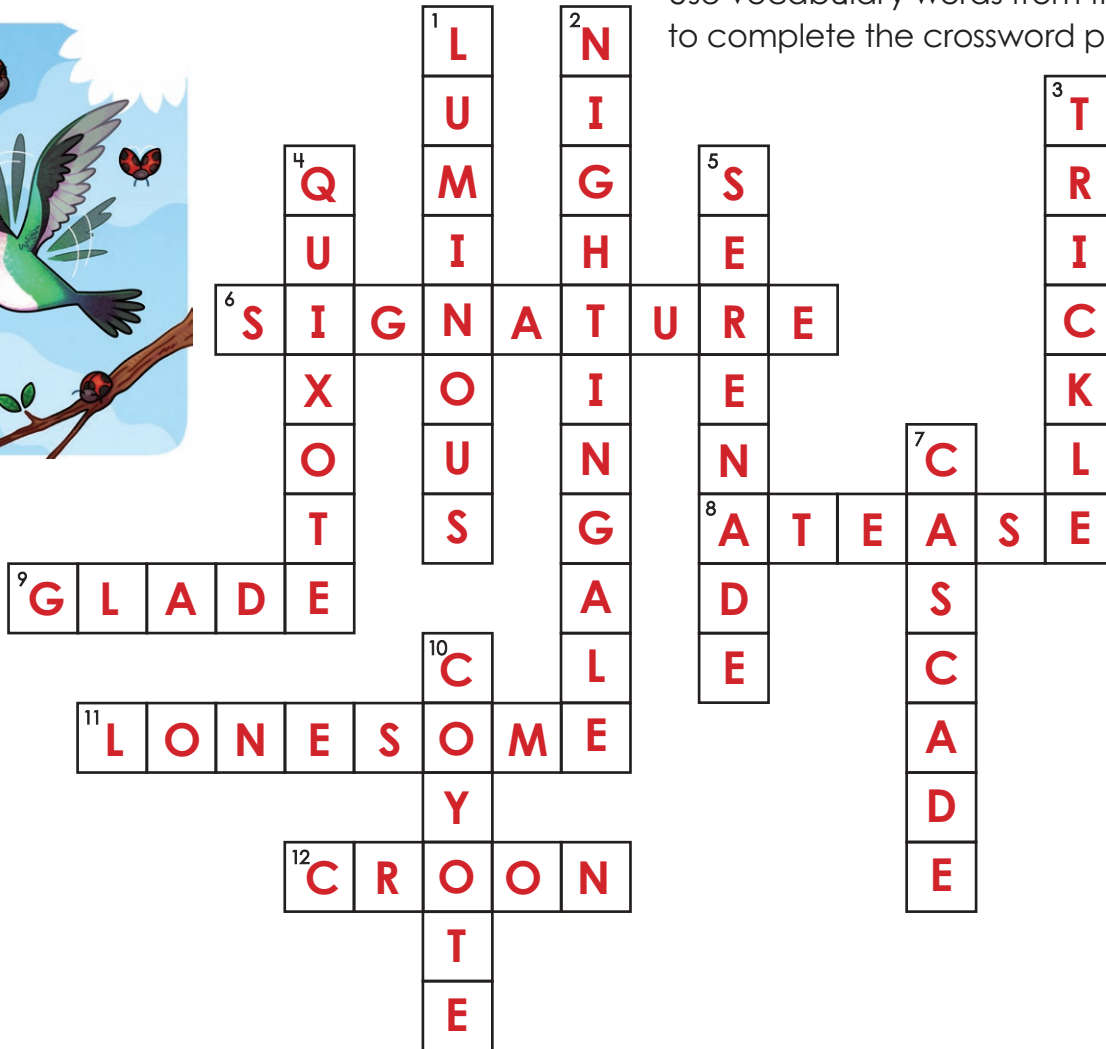
come back to reality.

ANSWER KEY

The Ratherbee Woods



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



Down:

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